

Mountain Voices and Community Actions: Local Initiatives in Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihoods in Central Asia

(TCF Grant 2007-03075)

Final Report Activities and Accomplishments



Submitted to

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Executive Summary

The Christensen Fund provided CAT/Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) with a two-year grant to support implementation of participatory, community-driven initiatives aimed at fostering stewardship of biological diversity and cultural heritage in tandem with the development of sustainable livelihoods within several communities in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. This project builds upon the Christensen Fund planning grant (*Mountain Cultures, Keystone Species: Exploring the Role of Cultural Keystone Species in Central Asia*) that examined the cultural role of ecologically important species and identified opportunities for community-based biodiversity conservation action.

Project objectives include building the capacity of local organizations for integrated participatory planning and action, providing training in emerging planning tools like *PhotoVoice* and Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action (APPA), along with supporting pilot, innovative, grass-roots community biodiversity conservation and livelihood initiatives implemented by local organizations.

Working with the Dushanbe-based NGO Nature Protection Team (NPT), we completed two training courses: (1) a 7-day introductory course in Khorog covering facilitation, natural resources and biodiversity, and participatory planning skills using Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action (APPA), and attended by 18 participants representing NGOs, private companies, research institutions, community-based organizations, government and international projects and (2) a practical workshop on using *Photovoice* for facilitating natural resource management. With the Murghab Ecotourism Association (META), SLC completed (1) a special training for the local herding community in Uch Kol (South Alichur Range), attended by 11 participants, including four women and a nature guide from Kyrgyzstan, and (2) hands-on-training in a Batchor, small village which suffers from livestock depredation due to predators like the wolf and endangered snow leopard. Primary objectives of these training initiatives included introducing participants to important biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management concepts.

Following these training and planning workshops, we provided grants to two communities (Batchor and Khijez, also known as Geisev) with potential for linking income generation. Both grants were administered through the SUBVO, with support from MSDSP. The appreciative inquiry process utilized throughout better enabled participants to discover, discuss and reflect on the assets they valued (winter and summer pastures, wildlife hotspots, springs and streams, cultural resources and sacred areas, etc.) through the use of easily-applied participatory tools such as spatial mapping, trend lines, seasonal patterns, and *PhotoVoice*.

For reasons outlined in the interim report, we were unable to organize a study tour of community-based trophy hunting programs in Pakistan. Instead NPT organized several consultative workshops involving the responsible governmental agencies to discuss how Tajikistan's hunting regulations and policies might benefit local communities while fostering biodiversity conservation. In collaboration with MSDSP, we co-financed an expert from India to conduct a Training of Trainers (ToT) course for naturalist guides in the Bartang Valley.

Selected materials and outputs from the training workshops and community planning initiatives have been translated into Russian, and will be posted on SLC's website for access by other development-conservation practitioners of the region. NPT will distribute hard-copies to interested persons and organizations in Tajikistan.

1. Introduction and Rationale

1.1 Background

The Christensen Fund provided CAT/Snow Leopard Conservancy with a two-year grant to support implementation of participatory, community-driven initiatives aimed at fostering the stewardship of biological diversity in tandem with the development of sustainable livelihoods within several communities in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The *Mountain Voices and Community Actions* project builds upon an earlier Christensen Fund planning grant titled *Mountain Cultures, Keystone Species: Exploring the Role of Cultural Keystone Species in Central Asia*, which examined cultural concepts analogous to roles played by ecologically important species in the communities of Tajikistan's Pamir mountains, and identified opportunities for fostering community-based biodiversity conservation.

The planning grant indicated the complexity and variability of relationships between cultural identities and critical species, and highlighted rapid biodiversity erosion following the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the resulting poor economic conditions, increased access to guns and lax enforcement of regulations by government. These led local residents and newcomers, including military personnel, to hunt Marco Polo sheep beyond the limits prescribed by Kyrgyz tradition and customs, with significant implications for the resource's ability to absorb such impact. Current hunting and plant extraction practices are exerting negative impacts on the long-term viability of ecologically and culturally important species in the Pamir as exemplified by the Marco Polo sheep. These magnificent animals migrate seasonally between Tajikistan and the neighboring Wakhan Corridor of Afghanistan. Tajikistan supports the largest population, with smaller numbers occurring in Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. For a list of ecologically and culturally important plants and animals, see our 2006 report titled *Mountain Cultures, Keystone Species: Exploring the Role of Cultural Keystone Species in Central Asia*.

The Pamir has been used as extensive pastures by local pastoralists for some 3,000 years. Livestock productivity was sustained during the Soviet era by importation of winter fodder from more productive lowlands in Kyrgyzstan over 300 km away, through the heavily subsidized road and transport system. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and collapse of the collective farms, animals and farms were distributed among the farm's members. Thus, former employees suddenly became farmers or herders, but lacked the necessary knowledge for sound livestock and pasture management. Despite the plummeting livestock number, many pastures (especially those close to settlements) were quickly depleted of vegetative cover. Such use led to overgrazing, and the replacing of palatable species by non-palatable plants. Clearly, the loss of key fauna and flora, including numerous medicinal plants and uprooting of *teresken* (*Ceratoides papposa* and *Artemisia rhodanta*) species for fuelwood to replace state-subsidized coal has significant implications for local livelihoods. Less than one percent of the land cover comprises forest. The Pamir's harsh climatic conditions – little precipitation, low annual mean temperatures and the short growing season impedes natural regeneration of vegetation, while increasing soil erosion and landslides.

In a region with relatively few economic opportunities, promising activities such as tourism will be quickly affected by increased land and natural resource degradation, including the loss of valuable wildlife, sacred features and other fragile landscape attractions. During the planning grant, we conducted pilot testing of emerging tools like *PhotoVoice* with similar

participant-led explorations or learning exercises for energizing individuals and communities so they may act more effectively against these changes and convert their energies into supportive livelihoods, conservation action and adaptation to environmental change. Finally, the planning grant alerted us to the high demand from local organizations for training and technical assistance in planning and managing community-driven conservation and sustainable livelihood activities. Wherever possible, we structured this grant to meet these needs while addressing the emerging threats to the region’s biodiversity and culture.

In order to begin to address these issues from the perspective of local communities, the *Mountain Voices and Community Actions* project’s key activities include building the capacity of local organizations for integrative participatory planning and action, training in emerging planning tools like *PhotoVoice* and Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action (APPA), along with supporting at least two innovative, grass-roots community biodiversity conservation and livelihood initiatives. The project also sought to establish far-reaching partnerships in support of policy revisions aimed at reducing pressures on endemic wildlife and plants due to illegal poaching and unregulated harvesting.

1.2 Project Sites

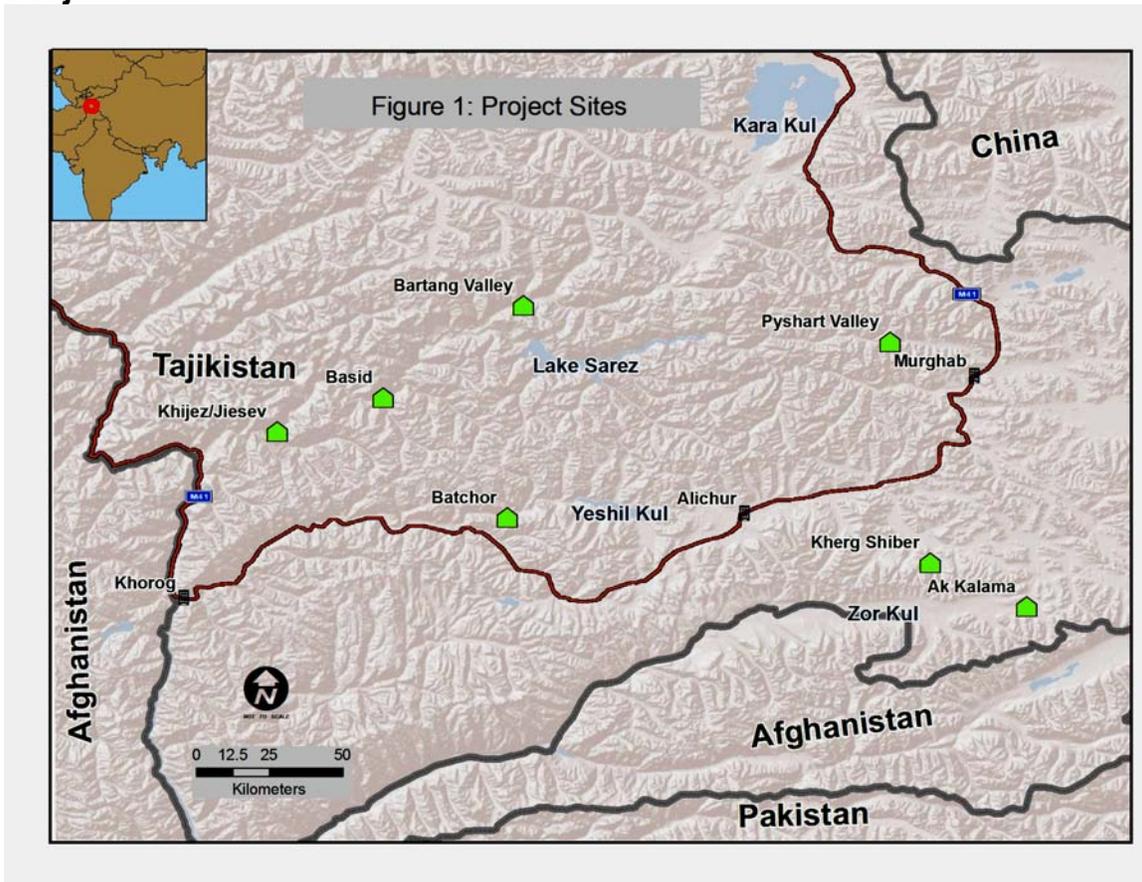


Figure 1: Map showing project sites in the Pamir, GBAO, Tajikistan.

1) East Pamir Sites: Our primary site is Uch Kol and the surrounding area of the South Alichur mountain range (longitude 73-74 degrees north; latitude 38-37 east), located 4-5 hours drive from Murghab. There are 5 or 6 Kyrgyz small settlements, each supporting 3-5 or more

households who live in the area year round, grazing their livestock of sheep, goats, cattle and yak in the surrounding pastures. The endangered Marco Polo sheep (*Ovis ammon polii*) spend the winter and early spring or summer here before migrating via the Bel Airyk Pass to the Zorkul Lake Zapovednik and the Afghanistan Pamir. Females give birth between May and mid-July. In the Kheng Shiber area, 200 or more sheep may be seen within a short time, offering excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing.

Our partner META engaged a second pastoral community in the Pyshart Valley, approximately 3 hours drive northwest of Murghab. Located between longitude 73° 34-54' and latitude 38° 17-18', this area comprises a wide valley with thirteen side gorges that offer excellent habitat for Marco Polo sheep, ibex, and snow leopard as well as other wildlife species. The flat or rolling terrain provides favorable summer pastures for about 40 households who reside here from early June through late October. Each year the Marco Polo sheep migrate via the Maljuran and Ak Jylga passes into the Pyshart valley, starting at the end of November and remaining there through April. With the onset of winter snows, the herds concentrate on the flatter slopes, but these offers little hindrance to poachers who easily reach the area by vehicle from Murghab or Khorog,

2) Western Pamir Sites: The Bartang Valley in the Rushan district is considered one of the most scenic, culturally rich, and diverse areas in all of the Pamirs. with some 28 settlements and a population of 19,000 people dominated by Ismaili Muslims. Bartang has received international attention due to potential risk of a break in the Lake Sarez dam formed in 1911 when an enormous landslide caused by an earthquake buried the village of Usoy and blocked the Murgab River – resulting in a earthen wall 550 meters high backing up water for some 60km at the altitude of 3,200 meters. Due to its wetter climate, vegetation is more developed than that of the eastern Pamir. The steeply incised, narrow valley with its rugged terrain offers good habitat for snow leopards and their chief prey, the ibex, along with a population of brown bear, marmots and other wildlife.

Research by Dr. Karim-Aly Kassam attests to the area's difficult access and harsh environmental conditions originally highlighted to western scholars by Frank Bliss in his book, *Social and Economic Change in the Pamirs*. Evidence for climatic change in both lower and upper villages is mounting. For example, farmers are no longer able to predict the weather accurately, complicating planning of agricultural activities. Lower villages can no longer grow certain fruits, and while wheat can be grown at high altitudes, there is very little arable land. Without electricity or the utilization of hydro power, more trees are being cut, or slopes denuded by weak land management practices. Juniper, once a common tree, is now very rare and found only in the most inaccessible places or associated with shrines. Predation of livestock appears to be on the increase, especially from wolf. It is against this background that SLC and its partners elected to work with local institutions in order to build their capacity for adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.

3) Intermediate Site: We selected Batchor area in Shugnan District as a representative site intermediate between the eastern and western Pamir. Located (72° 33' E; 37° 45' N) on the Gunt River downstream of Yashil Kul lake, it is a settlement of 34 households situated 25 km along an unimproved road from Varshez. The Batchor Village Organization (VO) has implemented some infrastructure projects, including a medical centre, bridge, and a goat breeding project with MSDSP's support and a yak breeding program under the government.

Currently there five working guides in Batchor, but only one homestay has been established with the technical support of MSDSP. A few tourists trek from Yashil Kul located upstream or hire local guides to visit the nearby glaciers of the Rushan mountain range. However, no biodiversity projects have yet been undertaken, despite the area’s relatively rich fauna and flora, which is threatened by unregulated wood-cutting, poaching (especially by outsiders), lack of tourism controls (or accruing benefits for local people), over-fishing using dynamite, and by livestock overgrazing on some pastures.

2. Project Goal, Objectives and Activities

Our overall goal involved strengthening mountain people’s voices and supporting their ability to take culturally and ecologically effective actions that benefit local communities. SLC and its partners follow a highly participatory approach, characterized by creativity, openness and innovation, plus a commitment to collaboration, especially centered on “learning by doing.” In implementing this project, we collaborated with other TCF grantees and regionally important organizations like the Aga Khan Foundation’s Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP) with respect to skills development, undertaking joint activities, or the sharing of information and lessons learned.

The primary project objectives are:

- 1) Build capacity in local organizations for participatory planning and action in community and culturally-based stewardship of biodiversity. Local organizations are interested in integrating innovative tools like *PhotoVoice* into planning methods such as Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action (APPA) or the more commonly applied PRA toolbox.
- 2) Support at least two community-based biodiversity conservation and livelihood initiatives implemented by local organizations. These pilot projects should focus on sustainable extraction practices (including hunting), species/habitat conservation and linking these with income generation.
- 3) Refine and support sustainable hunting initiatives for the Pamir, drawing upon cultural values and customs and working in partnership with local communities and organizations, hunting companies and relevant government authorities.
- 4) Improve access by local practitioners and policy-makers to the process and results/outputs of participatory planning and similar tools, through exhibitions, translation into local languages, and inclusion in local and regional websites, etc.

3. Objective and Activity Reporting

Table 1 (next page) summarizes the primary field activities undertaken during the two-year plus project, and which are described in more detail in following sections.

Table 1: Summary of Project Activities

Activity	Local partner/s	Other collaborators	Year	Description of Activities Undertaken	Comments
i). Training	Nature Protection Team (NPT); Murghab Ecotourism Association (META)	Potential NGO co-sponsorship including MSDSP & other TCF grantees	Years 1 & 2	- Completed three training courses for local NGOs & conservation-development practitioners (APPA for Community-based Conservation, introduction & community-planning); Wildlife Appraisal & Planning for Biodiversity-linked Livelihoods) - Special "Training of Trainers" for nature guides completed with MSDSP	Organization by local partners, with focused training technical assistance (TA) provided by SLC & others. Topics included planning tools (APPA) & <i>PhotoVoice</i> , community-based conservation & linked livelihoods, monitoring & evaluation
ii). Technical assistance (TA)	Stefan Michel CIM/GTZ & Village Organizations (VO's)	CAT's Wakhan project (Mock), WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society)	Years 1 & 2	- Provided technical oversight for community-based field initiatives - Collaborated with MSDSP under EU supported tourism program (including local management of CF supported VO subgrants) - Maintained regular contact with Mock project & relevant WCS initiatives in Wakhan Corridor - Trained 3 settlements in wildlife monitoring - Supported report writing	Activities conducted by local partners with SLC input & coordination
iii). Field initiatives	META & VOs	Volunteer	Year 1 & 2	- Eastern Pamir - Conservation and Livelihood initiative through META (2 sites) - Western Pamir - Ecotourism and Conservation Support for 2 settlements (Geisev & Batchor VOs) issued small-grants with assistance of MSDSP	Implemented by local communities with TA from META, SLC & CIM/GTZ
iv). Field Studies	Yes	CAT's Wakhan project	Year 1	- See CF report submitted by Dr. John Mock - Volunteer Felix Whitton conducted mapping wildlife survey in Bartang Valley with Stefan Michel - Included in META and NPT sub-grant components	As part of all three sub-grants, topics include hunting and extraction regimes in GBAO, natural resources, PA and related legislation.
v). Sustainable Hunting Meetings and Workshops	NPT / government agencies, NGOs	WCS, CAT's Wakhan project	Year 2	- Dushanbe Workshop conducted February, 2008 & October, 2009 (in collaboration with GTZ) - Government places hunting regulations "on hold" - WCS sponsored transboundary PA meeting delayed - John Mock project under completion	Organized and led by local partner NPT, participation and TA as needed by SLC. Follow-up workshop sponsored by GTZ.
vi). International study Tour	Yes	Requires additional external financial support	Year 2	- Study tour cancelled due to adverse political situation in Pakistan(see no-cost extension for details)	Proposed tour for Tajik participants to Pakistan for observing successful community-based hunting program
vii). Publications, Dissemination/ Outreach /Networking	Yes	WCS, GTZ, MSDSP, ACTED, Volunteers	Year 2	- Prepared draft APPA manual - Summary of key issues related to Marco Polo trophy hunting prepared (internal document) & meeting recommendations - Participation in GTZ sponsored Land Management Conference, Khorog - other technical documents / summaries	Shared activity between SLC and local partners. Outreach included traveling <i>PhotoVoice</i> exhibit to Khorog; wide range of selected documents translated into Russian and/or Tajik for posting on website
viii). Project reporting	Yes	All team members	Years 1 & 2	- Interim Progress Report prepared and submitted	Shared activity between local partners and SLC – documents to be posted on web.

3.1 Revisions and Adjustments

Project activities were originally scheduled for completion in early 2009. We submitted two requests for extensions which were approved by The Christensen Fund:

- No-Cost extension filed on 8 January, 2008 requested some changes in activities and budget line-items resulting from cancellation of the proposed study tour to Pakistan's Northern Areas (see below).
- No-Cost extension filed on 25 September 2009 for completing English to Russian and Tajik language translations and report preparation by our in-country partner, NPT. No change in activities or cost was involved.

With the cancellation of the trophy hunting study tour and follow-up workshop described in Section 3.4, our shift to focusing on producing and disseminating training and field implementation materials came primarily from feedback received from project participants who requested more information than we had originally planned to make available under more limited Russian and Tajik translations. We believe that with the gradual shift in community development approaches such as those being implemented by MSDSP and other community organizations or civil society groups, such material would be more useful for facilitating linked conservation-development initiatives.

Our experience indicated that building the capacity of local persons and/or organizations in the Pamir turned out to be a far more time-consuming process than originally perceived. We consider it important to be adaptable and responsive, and move at a pace that is more compatible with local conditions, for learning processes to be effective over the long-term.

Summary of Revisions and Adjustments:

- The study tour to community-based trophy hunting programs in Pakistan scheduled for summer 2008 and only partially funded was cancelled due to political and related issues (details in Section 3.4).
- Instead the \$1,000 allocated was provided to NPT to support the development, production and dissemination of training materials and translation into Tajik, Russian and English (including background material on responsible trophy hunting programs, workshop reports and related training documents).
- We allocated \$3,193 from the TCF Planning Grant for supporting (partial) a Training of Trainers (ToT) course for naturalist guides in collaboration with MSDSP (completed May 2008).
- We funded wildlife monitoring training sessions in two communities under the TA offered by Mr. Stephen Michel Centrum für Internationale Migration und Entwicklung Professionals) and Mr. Akmet Ummetbekov. These were held in Batchor in November 2008 and Khijej in March 2009, with one follow-up to the latter settlement.
- In 2009 additional funding in the form of a subgrant was provided to META to support the production of promotional & marketing materials targeting community-based tourism activities in Pyshart and Ich Kul which were deemed beneficial to local herder communities.

- Provided an additional \$1,000 to support community-based activities in Batchor village (January 28, 2009). Purchased GPS and several remote camera traps for use by Stefan Michel, Akmet Ummetbekov and other Tajik biologists to use in collaboration with local Pamir communities.
- Some funds remain under the Travel and Field Support category because Nandita Jain was able to travel on a World Bank project. Rodney Jackson's trip was delayed following cancellation by FFI and Panthera of the proposed workshop on snow leopards that has scheduled for late 2009. Hopefully this will take place this spring or summer.
- Translation of several project documents is underway, and will be completed shortly. Materials (in English and Russian) are being collated for posting on a website with the assistance of NPT.

3.2 Build Capacity in Local Organizations

SLC contracted with two primary local partners to implement activities under the *Mountain Voices – Community Actions* project: Nature Protection Team or NPT and the Murghab Ecotourism Association, known as META.

The Nature Protection Team was founded in 1972 by Dr. Firuza Abdurahimova (now Illarionova) and registered with the Ministry of Justice. Until 2004 it was based in the Faculty of Biology, Tajik State University, but is now a representative of UNEP/COM in Tajikistan. NPT is also a member of the Public Council of Implementation of the REAP (Report on Sustainable Development in Central Asia). The organization's portfolio includes environmental awareness programs, biodiversity conservation initiatives, and a highly praised legal and policy outreach program covering diverse environmental matters.

NPT was the primary point of contact between SLC, the Tajikistan government and local organizations involved in cultural and biodiversity conservation. NPT provided logistic support (travel, accommodation, visas and permits, etc), helped prepare course content, translated all workshop invitation and training materials and assisted in identifying suitable candidates to participate in training workshops. It was also responsible for organizing and leading the consultative workshops on trophy hunting of Marco Polo sheep, and for translating selected project documents into Russian (or Tajik) from the workshop for wider dissemination. NPT's contributions are described under each section addressing the particular project-related activity.

The Murghab Ecotourism Project grew from the Pamir High Mountain Integrated Project (PHIP) by ACTED, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development an international relief organization active in Central Asia with headquarters in Paris. In 2004 META was registered as an association of Service Providers based in Murghab Rayon and dedicated to promoting responsible tourism in the Pamir. The organization aims to develop economic alternatives for vulnerable sectors of the population, support sustainable natural and cultural heritage conservation, train service providers, and maintain a tourism information centre in Murghab. META is headed by Mr. Ubaidulla Mamadiev, thus benefiting from his 22 years as a school teacher and director, and former guide - translator for international hunting companies, where he acquired his extensive knowledge of the wildlife of the Eastern Pamirs. Section 3.3 summarizes the activities undertaken by META under this grant.

Training and Technical Assistance

a) Training Workshops: Under the auspices of NPT (and with assistance from META and other organizations) we organized three workshops on applying Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action (APPA) for facilitating Community-based Natural Resource and Biodiversity Conservation. Following the introductory training session to APPA, we conducted two field-based training sessions, the first in the eastern Pamir (Kheng Shiber – Ich Kol) and the second in the western Pamir (Bacid, Bartang Valley). These are summarized in the following paragraphs.

i) Introductory APPA Workshop (21-27 August 2007): The first workshop, a 7-day introductory training course was held in Khorog, covering such skills as facilitation, natural resources and biodiversity conservation, and using participatory planning (APPA) as the primary tool. The workshop was lead by Dr. Nandita Jain and Dr. Firuza Abdurahimov who led the 18 participants through the “4-D” cycle of APPA, namely Discovery, Dreaming, Design and Delivery, along with practical exercises using participatory tools like venn diagrams, trend lines, seasonal calendars, resource maps, pairwise matrices, and matrix ranking. They were also introduced to *Photovoice*, as a tool for examining the community’s valued places, resources or livelihood activities. This workshop offered excellent opportunities for networking among the 18 participants representing local NGOs, private companies, research institutions, community-based organizations, government and internationally-supported projects. Appendix 1-1 summarizes the topics addressed and daily activities undertaken, while Appendix 1-2 lists workshop participants along with background on their respective organizations.

Participants were fully engaged and active throughout the training session which drew generally positive feedback. The course enabled one VO participant (Khijez) to prepare a proposal for a community-based conservation initiative, while another participant from Batchor settlement also prepared a small project for consideration. Both initiatives were subsequently approved and funded by SLC.

Another unexpected outcome of this workshop centered on AKF/MSDSP’s interest in improving its staff’s field facilitation skills, so it could move more away from top-down planning towards grassroots facilitation when working with rural mountain communities. As a consequence, we organized a special training for trainers covering nature guiding (see section 3.1). Selected materials covering various aspects of natural resource management and the application of APPA were developed, including a summary handbook for facilitators in community-based conservation.

ii) Kheng Shiber Wildlife Stewardship Training Workshop (September 1-7, 2007): This workshop was conducted in the herder community of Kheng Shiber, which is located in the Southern Alichur range north of Zorkul Lake, prime habitat for the Marco Polo sheep.

It was attended by eleven local persons (including four women participants) representing local herders and their communities, the GBAO Nature Protection department, a local hunting concessionaire and visiting wildlife watcher from Kyrgyzstan (Akmet Ummetbekov). Dr Rodney Jackson and Ubaidulla Mamadiev (META) facilitated the training, with support from Ms. Firuza Abdurahimova (NPT) and the Kyrgyz translator Mirambek. Primary objectives of this APPA 4D-based training included introducing participants to important biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management concepts (see Appendix 2-1). The appreciative inquiry process utilized throughout better enabled the participants to discover, discuss and reflect on the

assets they valued (winter and summer pastures, wildlife hotspots, springs and streams, cultural resources and sacred areas, etc.) through the use of easily-applied participatory tools like spatial mapping, trend lines, and seasonal patterns (see Appendix 2-2 for a list of tools demonstrated during the workshop).

During the Discovery phase, it quickly became apparent that wildlife is highly valued by this Kyrgyz community, who considered the snow leopard a symbol of wealth, shooting a lynx was like “taking the life of a friend,” and who revered Marco Polo sheep as a national treasure and species of international significance. The participants then explored issues relating to pasture management, income generation and the Marco Polo trophy hunting program (with this area ranking among the best of Tajikistan’s official international trophy hunting grounds). Understanding of this endangered sheep’s annual life cycle was very high among these people, who confirmed the primary threats to be illegal poaching, severe winters affecting access to forage and human disturbances which displace animals onto slopes where food is less abundant or available. Based on information gathered during the Discovery and Dreaming phases, we constructed a conceptual model illustrating relationships between the various threats to biodiversity (with emphasis on Marco Polo sheep and rangelands, along with suitable interventions for minimizing negative impacts and improving the environment along with household incomes (Figure 2). This offered a focus for META’s return trips during which more detailed project planning was undertaken as described in their progress and final reports (available upon request).

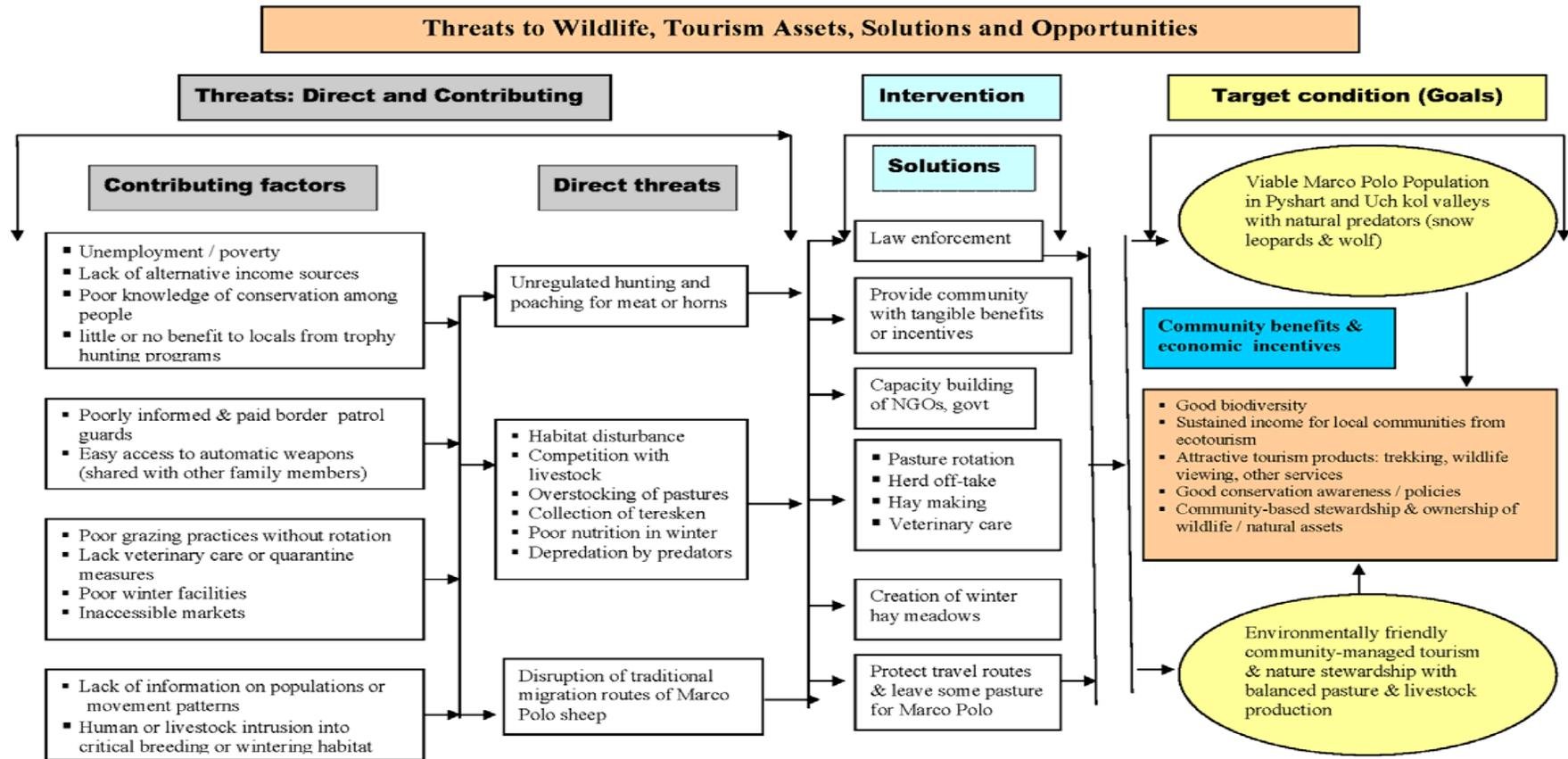
The community showed strong awareness of grazing practices that result in habitat degradation and the need for “Best Practices” pasture management (see Box 1), including adherence to calendars reflecting plant phenology and the seasonal rainfall pattern, rotational pasture use, and other measures for avoiding overuse of key forage species. A timeline prepared by the herders clearly indicated the rapid escalation of loss of wildlife and teresken following the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Useful workshop outcomes included the initiation of an ongoing dialogue between the herders (whose “eyes and ears” could help reduce or perhaps even stop poaching by outsiders) and the local hunting company which expressed its desire to ensure benefits accrued to local people (whose support they see as vital to the development of a sustainable and economically viable trophy hunting program). Workshop participants were introduced to *PhotoVoice*, and relationships of social institutions to resource management and decision-making using Venn diagrams.

Other notable outputs included:

- Maps of community resources for Khen Shiber and Ich Kol area.
- Charts and resources for enabling META staff to conduct their own community engagement and planning initiatives.
- Detailed information on trophy hunting program and impacts for future planning.
- Preliminary information on tourist products and marketing.

Figure 2: Conceptual Diagram of Threats and Opportunities for Biodiversity Conservation in Keng Shiber and Pyshart Valley



Box 1: Best Practices for Kheng Shiber

Animal Husbandry:

- wise seasonal use (rotational grazing)
- haymaking & fodder storage for winter
- breed animals properly with balanced sex/ages
- leave forage for Marco Polo sheep
- manage lambing properly

Conservation of Marco Polo Sheep:

- control illegal hunting and over-harvesting by reporting poachers
- stop hunting by border guards and officials
- don't hunt for meat
- protect traditional migration corridors
- protect winter and summer habitat (including lambing sites)
- ensure benefits for local people
- good trophy hunting practices in local hunting territory
- predators in balance

Tourism Income Opportunities:

- protect environment & natural assets like streams, springs, campsites, flowers etc
- provide wildlife viewing opportunities
- promote cultural tourism (jailo homestays)
- train local youths as guides

iii) PhotoVoice and Community-based Resource Conservation Training Workshop

This workshop, held in Bacid in the Bartang Valley, was led by Drs. Nandita Jain and Firuza Abdurakhimova and attended by 18 participants, including local village leaders, representatives from local and international NGOs (see Appendix 3.1). Topics included background to *Photovoice* as a tool for conservation planning, monitoring and evaluation, the various stages of *Photovoice*, use of cameras, ethical issues (such as obtaining the permission of people to photograph them or their activities, respecting local customs and wishes, etc), selecting pictures in collaboration with stakeholders and developing spoken or written narratives that support each image or set of photographs. The group discussed the various applications of *PhotoVoice*, including how it evolved in an urban environment, and can be applied to rural situations in which biodiversity conservation is the primary goal.

PhotoVoice is a process by which people can identify, represent, and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique. It entrusts cameras to the hands of people to enable them to act as recorders, and potential catalysts for action and change, in their own communities. It uses the immediacy of the visual image and accompanying stories to provide evidence and to promote an effective, participatory means of sharing expertise to create a common future. Participants were encouraged to use this emerging tool and put one displays for local residents and decision-makers in the local, regional and central government. The three main goals are to:

- Enable people to record and reflect their community's strengths and concerns;
- Promote critical dialogue and knowledge about personal and community issues through

- large and small group discussions of photographs; and
- Reach through to policy makers.

Photovoice is inherently flexible so it can be adapted to the specific participatory goals that a target group may be interested in. Appendix 3-2 provides a detailed summary of the goals and process involved when applying this tool.

iv) Training of Trainers (ToT) for Nature Guides: In collaboration with MSDSP, a special workshop for training “trainers” and led by Mr. Renzino Lepcha (a community-based tourism specialist from Sikkim, India) was held from 17- 24 May 2008 in Khorog with a field session in Khijez (also known as Jiasev or Geisev).

The primary objectives were to:

- 1) Provide basic skills in training design and delivery for the purposes of training naturalist guides in mountain regions;
- 2) Share training and other materials and that could be adapted for guides in GBAO;
- 3) Provide recommendations for further capacity building activities in ecotourism development.

Intended to target local guides the workshop was attended by 16 persons from the Pamir Guiding Association, along with the head of the GBAO Tourism Department, a local tour operator and MSDSP staff. The curriculum covered a wide range of topics, from facilitation skills to organizing a guided walk. A PDF of the training workshop is available upon request. Feedback from the participants included comments such as:

- I have never enjoyed workshops like this before
- I attended many training programs before but this one I shall always cherish
- I have participated in many training and this one I enjoyed most.
- This was my best seminar and this was due to the experience of the trainer.
- This training was very good. The translator was very good who made things more simpler.

A number of important recommendations emerged from the workshop, and included the following: Proper translation of workshop materials and content is critical to ensuring a successful outcome. All translated materials needs to be carefully vetted for both consistency and meaning. Compatibility between trainer and translator can be important to workshop flow and consistency. Careful attention has to be devoted to finding the correct terminology, for English cannot be translated literally. The use of Russian and Shugni confused many participants, so only Russian should be used in future. Daily debriefing helps to clarify the material, which also sets the stage for the next day’s session. This training was organized by MSDSP for the different stakeholders but it was not attended by key staff of the tourism program. MSDSP should build internal capacity by developing “trainers of trainers” among their staff. The person undertaking translation of handouts must be in close communication with the trainer and have clear understanding of what is being translated, with all items completed and copied in advance. All the translations should be completed and copied made in advance.

The workshop produced specific recommendations for improving Khijez homestays and tourist satisfaction, including the need for refresher courses, simple phrase booklets,

interpretative handouts, trail signage and opportunities for visitor feedback. The workshop identified those individuals showing the most potential and recommended that MSDSP continue to develop their skills and knowledge base.

Comment on Workshop Outputs & Feedback: These included technical reports (final and draft) with translations of selected training documents and materials from CBT manuals, handbooks, papers and handouts covering a wide range of topics from facilitation to resource characterization and capacity building.

As indicated in our Interim Report, feedback from participants can be generally summarized as follows:

- General appreciation for the asset- and strength-based approach with considerable interest in the value and role of the APPA’s “Dreaming” element and for learning tools such as PhotoVoice, mapping, ranking, etc.;
- Recognition that natural resource and biodiversity conservation have not been major concerns of either organizations or projects, and that more work needs to be done in these areas;
- A desire to use such methods in their workplace and communities, but recognising an urgent need for translated materials to aid in this process; and
- More training is still needed in facilitation, participatory planning and conservation planning, including “Training of Trainers.”

We were particularly challenged when deciding what materials should be translated in the local or regional language and what level of detail should be targeted. Translating technical terms were especially problematic. Differing language skills and competencies among potential users pose difficulties in deciding what language is best, especially with respect to technical terminology that is often incongruent between Russian and English, or entirely missing in Tajik. Further, good quality translation into either language can be extremely time-consuming and expensive, with finding translators well-versed in natural resource and biological topics particularly challenging.

b) Wildlife Ecotourism and Conservancy Technical Assistance

Other Training in Wildlife Monitoring

SLC provided a small grant to Stefan Michel (CIM/GTZ wildlife specialist) and Akmet Ummetbekov for train local villagers in wildlife monitoring, particularly ibex, the primary prey of snow leopard and the large mammal most likely to be seen by tourists visiting the Western Pamir. The first training was conducted at Ravmed and Khijez settlements in the Bartang Valley (Rushan District) by Akhmet Umetbekov. He was assisted by GBAO residents Nuzar Oshurmamadov, Munavar Alidodov and Vladimir Shakula, with technical backstopping from Stefan Michel and SLC. A total of 15 persons (including three women) were trained in monitoring the local ibex population. Concerned about declining numbers, the villagers of Khijez (Geisev) and Ravmed established a local NGO (*Parcham*) to protect and foster sustainable resource use of the area’s natural resources. They identified three sites which support ibex habitat where grazing of domestic livestock, collection of wild plants or cutting of fuelwood and hunting has been prohibited. In all, three training sessions were conducted: the first in December

2008 focussing on field methods and record keeping, the second at Khijez in February 2009 where participants entered survey observations into a computer and refresher training on 7-10 March, again held in Ravmed.

Villagers were introduced to the concept and importance of monitoring, along with field methods specifically suited to ibex and snow leopards. The group divided into two teams and surveyed the Ravmeddara gorge during which 78 ibex were tallied. This consisted of 26 males (10 older than 3 years and 16 of 2-3 years of age), 28 females, 22 yearlings and two animals of unknown sex or age.

The Khijez community agreed to conduct annual surveys in October and at the end of winter each year (i.e., two annual three-day long surveys in each community range area). Each member agreed to maintain a record of sightings with the time, location, number, sex and age (where possible), direction and distance to each herd and their behavior. Snow and terrain limited the areas that could be surveyed during the training. Other constraints included a lack of confidence for record keeping among the villagers, and the poor quality of binoculars available for surveys which preclude accurate sex and aging of ibex or other wildlife encountered. In their goal to offer visitors good viewing opportunities, the villagers were well aware of the need to protect ibex from being disturbed or poached, especially by outsiders. As these protective measures take effect and local capacity for monitoring is improved, the community anticipated potential benefits like more justifiable harvest take-off rates if event trophy hunting were to be promoted (many rural residents are well aware of the large amounts of money accruing from hunting of Marco Polo). They also valued improved knowledge for guiding tourists interested in observing ibex or other mountain wildlife. The training was co-financed by SLC, the Zoological Society for Conservation of Species and Populations (Germany), GTZ (German Society for Technical Cooperation) and Nature Conservation International (NCI, Germany) which provided 6 binoculars to the NGO "Parcham."

In November 2008, eleven villagers from Batchor were trained in ibex surveys and wildlife monitoring by Michel and his team. The trainers and workshop participants also developed standard reporting procedures, discussed the benefits of biodiversity conservation and identified the next steps in fostering opportunities for tourists interested in nature viewing (see Section 3.3 and Appendix 7). More details on these trainings are available in PDF document format upon request.

3.3 Support Conservation – Livelihood Field Initiatives

a) Grants to Local Organizations

The project provided grants to the following partner organizations for field-based initiatives:

i) Murgab Ecotourism Association: One grant to META for work with rural communities to design and implement stewardship and related livelihood activities that can serve as pilot models for GBAO. SLC provided META with a grant totaling \$8,100 to support activities in 2007 and \$12,000 for 2008-09 activities.

In 2007, META conducted reconnaissance field visits to five valleys (Tulpar, Ak zoo, Kheng Shiber, Jangy Davan, Gorumdu) located in the South Alichur Range near Zor Kul lake in order to determine community interest, level of knowledge and capacity for participating in community-based tourism initiatives. Information was collected on landscapes and

geomorphology, flora and fauna, archaeological sites, campsites, jaiolos (herder camps) and access conditions. Several wildlife transects were completed to provide baseline information for future monitoring, and three participatory design meetings were held to identify and rank potential tourism sites and product opportunities. META concluded that Ich Kol offered the best location for a pilot community-based tourism initiative, as well as a suitable venue for the wildlife training workshop described above.

Ich Kul Valley: situated in the South Alichur mountain range it consists of five main valleys (Kol uchkol, Ort ouch kol, Bel airyk, Keng shiber and Gorumdu). This area supports the largest migratory corridor for Marco Polo sheep who cross Ak kalama pass north of Zor Kul Lake (a zapanovik) during their annual migration between the summer and winter ranges. The population numbers in the several thousands. There are four herder households at Ich Kul who reside year round managing herds of yaks and flocks of sheep and goats. The settlement is located 120 km (3-3.5 hours) from Murghab, and has relatively good access. See section [3.1 (a) (ii)] describing the Kheng Shiber Herder Community Training Workshop for information on the key threats to biodiversity along with opportunities for community-based stewardship and livelihoods enhancement.

During META's planning workshop a number of possible tourism products were identified, including Marco Polo photo safaris, the addition of a new trekking route in the Alichur Range, and enhanced benefits from sustainable hunting in collaboration with the Kuhi Nur Hunting Company (with whom META signed an agreement). Initial steps were taken to address underlying threats from poaching, including plans for developing awareness-raising posters and related educational materials, liaising with the Ministry of Nature Protection and Environment (agency responsible for the management of the Tajik National Park), and mapping of wildlife hotspots. See META's 2007 progress report for the detailed activities undertaken in this area, available upon request.

In 2008, META trained these herders in the provision of homestays, along with consolidating plans for developing nature tourism under the pilot project titled *Wildlife Ecotourism and Conservancy Program*. More rigorous wildlife monitoring and a simple system for recording snow leopard (and other rare animal sightings) was also supported.

Priority needs for the effective development of rural homestays and related community-based tourism products include offering refresher training for service providers, diversifying products by identifying alternative trekking itineraries, professionalizing the services offered, and seeking partnerships with tour operators based in Central Asia and Europe. META is also exploring national and international product promotion through linkages with the Expatriate community and presence at international tourism fairs like the one held in Berlin each year.

Pyshart Valley: Located in the Pyshart mountain range within the boundaries of the Tajik National Park, this site embraces thirteen main drainages, some gorge-like and others more rolling in nature (Kulchak, Baka bash, Rang, Ak jylga, Gumbesdu kol, Kara jylga, Ak tash, Jar jylga, Kyzyl jylga, Mal juran, Kyzyl jylga, Apak and Sasyk). It provides summer pasturage for about 40 households, as well as constituting important wintering grounds for Marco Polo sheep. It is a hotspot for snow leopards in the Eastern Pamir, in part because of the widespread presence of ibex. The main valley drains into Sarez lake, and has great potential as a trekking route should this area be opened to tourism. The valley, located some 80 km from Murghab, is accessed along an old mining road that is in good condition along the upper reaches, but quickly

deteriorates when it enters the gorge upstream of an abandoned mine. META held a capacity-building workshop involving 25 community members and representative leaders at Kuna Kurghan in March, 2008 with the long-term objectives of:

- Exchanging knowledge on biodiversity, natural resources and community livelihoods.
- Identifying important natural and human resources, through mapping and *PhotoVoice* documentation.
- Simple ranking of valued natural resources, livelihood assets and natural capital.
- Participatory Wildlife Habitat and Natural Asset Mapping, including underlying threats
- Envisaging the future through *the Dreaming process*.
- Supporting community actions to protect biodiversity in the Pyshart valley.
- Increasing household revenues through sustainable livelihood and nature conservancy.
- Increasing community participation in resource management and conservation while also diversify rural sources of income.

META has developed special wildlife viewing products for Maljuran and the Pyshart valley, which are being advertised at their Murghab office and in flyers for drop-in visitors or for emailing to prospective clients and interested tour agents. Other follow-through activities conducted by META included the establishment of a committee for supervising community initiatives called the Pyshart Conservancy Committee or PCC. A detailed plan of action was drawn-up with implementation commencing in 2008 and continuing into the future depending upon the availability of funding and in response to tourist demand. PCC have adopted a Code of Conduct for service providers and visitors, established of simple ‘information corners’ within yurts, posted materials in META’s office to inform visitors about the yurt stays, and opened dialog between the herding community and Tajik National Park authorities concerning protection of wildlife and management of natural resources (see Appendix 4-1 for Pyshart Action Plan).

Trainings of yurt providers, guides and drivers were held during the summers of 2007 and 2008. A SWOT analysis of opportunities and problems was also conducted (see Appendix 4-2 for details). The tourist season begins in May, ends in September and peaks during July and August. Over two-thirds (71%) of visitors to the Murghab originate in Europe (primarily Germany, France, Switzerland and Great Britain) with only 5% coming from the USA. Tourist visitation to the Pamir is presently low or very low, although numbers continue to grow steadily. For example, META recorded 292 clients in 2009 compared with 65 clients for 2005, with the association’s annual revenue increasing by over 800% (with the number of members increasing only slightly over the same period). Most of META’s business comes from jeep tours along the Dushanbe-Pamir -Ishkashim (Wakhan valley)-Osh highway or the Osh-Pamir highway-Ishkashim (Wakhan valley)-Dushanbe route.

Presently, visits to the herder communities is extremely low (Table 2), but this is expected to grow steadily over time as word spreads and satisfied clients post information on the internet or encourage friends to visit Tajikistan. Clearly, it is a destination for the adventurous. META is expanding its marketing outreach through on-line catalogues and participation in international or regional Tourism Fairs as their primary means of reaching clients interested in new trekking routes and itineraries of longer duration. New brochures describing the trips developed under the CF project have been prepared. Prime examples are the “Marco Polo Photo Safari” and the tour “The Pamir is the Roof of the World,” available as PDF files from META’s 2007 progress and 2009 final reports.

Table 2: Tourist visitations and number of herder families involved in tourism products developed under the TCF project.

Name of Jailoo	Number of Tourists	Homestays	Guides, porters, or cook	Drivers	Porters with pack animals
Gumbezdu kol	21	5	2	1	2
Madian	21	3	1		
Keng shiber	23	3	2	1	2
Ak Zoo	18	2	1		3
Gorumdu	18	2	1		2
Pyshart	23	2	1	1	
Total	62	15	8	3	9

ii) Village Organizations: Khijez (also known as Geisev) Village Organization (VO) in the Bartang Valley received a grant for \$3,040 in February 2008 to cover activities until December 2008. Following the guidelines SLC developed for community-based conservation initiatives, this VO worked with MSDSP to prepare a small project that a) increases their participation in biodiversity conservation; and b) strengthens the environmental conservation aspects of ecotourism activities being implemented under MSDSP's tourism development project. A second project proposal for Ravmed VO could not be completed in time for this reporting period due to severe winter conditions and problems with accessibility. The grant funds were transferred to MSDSP for disbursement to the relevant SUDVO (Roshan) and then to Khijez VO. A copy of the proposal is included in Appendix 6.

In June 2008, Jackson visited Khijez to provide the community with additional technical assistance, including environmental monitoring protocols, and liaising with the MSDSP-ecotourism project that selected this community as one of their primary demonstration projects. The villagers had planted approximately 600 trees, constructed a garbage pit, cleaned three villages, undertaken nature awareness activities with the local school, hired a local person to serve as a nature guard, and hired a Russian from Pamir Energy to conduct a feasibility assessment for mini-hydel in the valley. They have banned ibex hunting, and kept outsiders from doing the same. Several education classes for the children were held, and the project coordinator purchased a miniDVD camera for documenting project activities. The villagers purchased a video camera to document their activities. Outstanding tasks included:

- Village *Photovoice* application
- Nature and general information sign boarding
- Wildlife mapping & monitoring
- Pilot insulation experiment
- Summer environmental event.

We have received no further reporting from the community or responsible villager (Juma Gulshaev), either directly or via MSDSP. We understand that tourist visits to Khijez continues to increase and generate revenue for the village's homestay providers, guides and porters.

We also provided a grant of \$3,300 to the Batchor VO in support of activities identified during a community planning workshop held in July 2008 and attended by Rodney Jackson. Mr.

Qurboniev Aslisho, an emerging young entrepreneur studying in Khorog agreed to act as the community's liaison for coordinating the activities outlined in Appendix 7. In January 2009 we supplemented their grant with an additional \$1,000 for developing horse-riding and Kawg hotspots for local and foreign visitors. SLC provided the community with a laptop computer, which is being managed by Aslisho.

In offering this seed funding, we sought to (i) improve the Batchor inhabitants' knowledge about biodiversity (especially snow leopards and ibex); (ii) mobilize them to protect the resources of the village and surrounding area; and (iii) generate revenue from sustainable activities, including nature tourism. It has strengthened existing tourism enterprise activities by establishing a fee campsite and community solar shower, as well as supporting the *Village Nature Celebration Day* with singing, story-telling, and a painting competition raising local awareness for biodiversity conservation and the area's natural assets. Other activities supported included sign-boarding and a small environmental education program for the local school. Simple booklets of local flora, faunal and landscapes were produced, and community members are continuing to collect and document local songs, stories and folklore about wildlife, in order to emphasize people's relationship with nature, their spiritual responsibilities and activities which lead to better nature stewardship. In the future, the community should be able to capitalize on generating tourism revenue by establishing a 5-8 day circular trek to Zaroskul, bypassing Sarez to Langar Pass and down the Langar River Valley back to Batchor or onto Yeshikul. There are several other routes to the Bartang Valley.

b) Field investigations and studies

Through the avenue of subgrants and its in-country partners, the project continued to explore relationships between cultural beliefs (and practices) and opportunities to foster both species and habitat conservation, plus provide insight into patterns of hunting and extraction and potential impacts.

META focused on developing community-based ecotourism products aimed at strengthening social and cultural mechanisms and taboos as a means of reducing unregulated hunting of ibex and Marco Polo sheep. META will continue to document human relationships with large predators like snow leopard, wolf and brown bear that occasionally depredate livestock. We anticipate that this will become a more important issue in the western Pamir threatening these rare species with further depletion of its natural prey base. Similarly, we expect some communities will elect to gather relevant knowledge on key medicinal plants, including harvesting practices, ecological associations, and potential for sustainable management or cultivation. For example, Khije residents expressed their interest in reforestation and fuel conservation initiatives.

Felix Whitton, a British volunteer, conducted a wildlife field survey of the lower and middle Bartang Valley in collaboration with Stefan Michel and Akhmet Umetbekov in April-May 2008. They found widespread evidence of poaching, although interviews with local people reflected a desire to cooperate with conservation projects, provided communities are properly involved and realize benefits in terms of employment, education, and sharing of tourism revenues. Whitton's proposal to develop a simple GIS-habitat suitability model for snow leopard and ibex did not materialize, in part because of the lack of sufficient thematic data layers or available time.

In June 2008, Rodney Jackson accompanied META guide Altynbek, Ahmet

Ummetbekov and interpreter Sultanshiev on a trip up the Bartang Valley continuing through to the Pyshart Valley to examine potential ecotourism opportunities and provide continued training in wildlife monitoring. While very little wildlife was observed through much of the Tajik National Park, abundant snow leopard and ibex sign was found in the places visited in Pyshart, giving this area a notably richer biodiversity than most of the Tajik National Park. Thus, the team urged META to give serious thought to developing site-specific wildlife viewing and trekking itineraries, as well as engaging local herders in protection and management.

Other coordination meetings were held with Fauna & Flora International (FFI) Central Asia Program Director Paul Hotham and consultant, Dr. David Mallon, CARE-UNDP (Dushanbe), Dr. Abdusattor Saidov of Institute of Zoology, Tajik Academy of Sciences and Dr. Muhammad Ali-Musaffer among others. Dr. Jackson trained staff of the Academy of Sciences and the Romit Zapovnednik in wildlife monitoring using remote camera traps.

John Mock, Principal Investigator of another Christensen Fund grant for activities in the adjoining Wakhan Corridor, also worked as the social scientist for the USAID-supported transboundary project being implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). His grant supports community work that goes beyond this mandate, filling in the cultural diversity knowledge base for management of natural resources in this area of Afghanistan. Other activities by Mock of potential synergy to our project include: exchange visits of Wakhi people from Afghanistan to Pakistan, and from Pakistan to Afghanistan; gathering stories, songs, poetry in Wakhan and identifying the key knowledge resource people there; training Wakhi school teachers in Wakhan how to transcribe and write their language using international phonetic alphabet (so they can record and transcribe stories, etc.); bringing young promising Wakhi university students to Pakistan where they see how the Pakistan Wakhi people live, deal with conservation / tourism / community management issues, and participate in cultural events. The grant also supported a full-day Wakhi cultural symposium hosted by the Wakhi-Tajik Cultural Association in Pakistan, and later broadcast via Radio Pakistan to the Wakhi community in Afghanistan giving opportunities to the Wakhi community to hear the voice of their young university student reciting poetry.

3.4 Support Sustainable Hunting Initiatives

META's interviews with local communities confirmed that thousands of Marco Polo sheep cross over Bel Airyk pass as soon as it is accessible, which unfortunately coincides with the prime time for poaching, with animals funneling in single-file across the narrow gap. For example, in 2006 one man shot 16 sheep. Similar numbers return in the fall (October 25 through November) to their winter pastures along the border, females first followed by young rams and lastly the trophy-sized rams so sought after by foreign hunters. The area is licensed to a private hunting concession (Kuhi Nur), and has been very active recently, with many clients visiting the area to hunt in fall of 2007. Poaching of the Marco Polo sheep which winter near Murghab is reportedly also rampant

At the present rate of hunting (legal and illegal), Tajikistan and the international community will lose a highly symbolic keystone species from most of its current strongholds, perhaps in as few as 5-10 years. There is an urgent need for greater transparency to the lucrative international trophy hunting program, which brings in \$20,000 - \$30,000 per license for gross annual revenues well in excess of \$500,000. Unfortunately, none of this reaches the rural communities where hunting takes place, so not surprisingly local people feel they too must hunt

(illegally of course) before this resource disappears entirely. Other concerns raised include the lack of proper management plans for Marco Polo sheep, a trophy hunting program which is open to bribes and corruption, widespread poaching for meat by border guards and lack of information concerning herd size, recruitment or other management needs or priorities (see Appendix 8-1 for a summary of factors threatening this Red Book listed species, including information on Tajikistan's trophy hunting program).

a) Meetings and workshops: Given the sensitivity of trophy hunting, our partner Nature Protection Team (NPT) focused on building a working relationship with the key players, including the Committee for Nature Protection, decision-makers from relevant government agencies, research biologists affiliated with universities or scientific institutions, and interested members from general public or conservation sector. NPT also filled in important gaps in understanding of current legislation and hunting patterns, as part of a broader confidence building exercise with government. Under the SLC grant, the responsibility of this reputable NGO entailed addressing this highly contentious issue through fostering dialogue among all stakeholders and promoting policy change at the government level.

The first step involved compilation of the laws and regulations affecting trophy hunting and management of wildlife in Tajikistan (Appendix 8-2). The complex structure, with numerous agencies responsible for managing the trophy hunting program, is clearly illustrated by the organogram presented in Appendix 8-2; however, despite the abundance of players, all decisions are essentially controlled directly by the President's office. Prior to 2008, the international trophy hunting was managed more directly by the Ministry of Nature Protection, also through many administrative and structural subunits (see the organization chart in the paper by A. Haslinger et al., 2007, titled, *Opportunities and risks in reconciling conservation and development in a post-Soviet setting: the example of the Tajik National Park*, in the International Journal of Biodiversity Science and Management 3:157-169).

We held an initial two-day advisory workshop in February – March 2008 in Dushanbe to address this critically important topic. Appendix 8-3 provides a list of participants, their presentations and the main topics of discussion under a consultative meeting title of “Priority Issues and Key Actions for Trophy Hunting Programs: *Opportunities and strategies for wild animals preservation that are profitable for both local communities and environment.*” Specialists from the Institute of Zoology, Academy of Sciences, Tajik National Park, Biodiversity Convention focal-point, Convention on Migratory Species focal-point, State Control Special Inspection Branch for Fauna and Flora, Forestry Institute, and the Ministry of Agriculture delivered papers during the plenary session. These are available upon request, in Russian with English summaries.

As one government manager commented, “this is the first time that we openly discussed this controversial issue across different agencies: up until now, trophy hunting has been a closed topic. But now we are recognizing the importance of involving local people in biodiversity conservation and ensuring that they will have suitable incentives to help protect Tajikistan's rare plants and animals.”

Appendix 8-4 summarizes the recommendations made by the 35 or so departmental lead and middle management-level participants, who represented four government agencies, several hunting companies and tourist organizations, as well as NGOs like META and NPT. This document was offered to the Tajik government, but for a number of reasons no further action or decision was taken toward ensuring more equitable distribution of trophy hunting revenues at the

rural level in GBAO.

Shortly after the workshop, the government enacted substantial structural changes that resulted in widespread shifts of key decision-level personnel and policy makers who had participated in the first consultative workshop. We had scheduled a second workshop to follow in the heels of the proposed study tour to northern Pakistan so that Tajik operators and policy makers could experience for themselves what elements comprise a community-trophy hunting program well received regionally and internationally for its social, economic and environmental integrity. Unfortunately, following Ms. Bhutto's assassination in late 2007, the political climate in Pakistan continued to deteriorate with significant safety concerns even in the area we proposed to visit.

Concurrently, efforts by WCS to establish a transboundary park embracing Marco Polo habitat across the four adjoining range countries (Tajikistan, China, Pakistan and Afghanistan) also faced increasing obstacles with the growing unrest in Pakistan and widening conflict in Afghanistan. In late November 2008, we were informed that this initiative had been put to rest (unofficially, of course) until a more favorable climate existed or the Tajik government showed more interest in hosting the necessary planning meetings. As indicated in our proposal and Interim Report, we were counting on co-financing from WCS and other sources to support the exchange study tour.

In July 2008, Presidential announcements called for a 2-year moratorium on Tajikistan's Marco Polo trophy hunting program beginning in early 2009. Yet trophy-hunting of the considerably rarer and far more highly endangered mountain ungulate, the markhor, had continued despite its prohibition for several years. No one really knew if such a ban would be gazetted within the legal framework, or perhaps simply put into action without any legal framework. Or it may not be implemented at all, for some local informants suggested these rumors were being generated by high-level persons eager to increase the "pay-off" for allowing hunting to continue. Similarly off and the record, an official with the US governmental agency responsible for issuing American hunters with import permits for Marco Polo trophies, felt it may not be so much stopping the hunting, as making sure the proceeds are shunted "in the desired direction."

Given such uncertainty and apparent government reluctance to seriously discuss this issue, NPT informed us that they could not guarantee that the proposed workshop would be sufficiently attended by experts and decision-makers, or even be represented all of the agencies involved in nature conservation, trophy hunting and economic development. In view of these developments, we were increasingly concerned that any workshop targeting Tajikistan's trophy hunting policies or attempting to promote a more responsible program under such a climate of uncertainty would only end up squandering scarce and valuable resources. Later, however, NPT was able to join with GTZ and the Committee for Nature Protection to convene a second consultative workshop in October 2009. This resulted in a more clearly focused set of recommendations (see Appendix 8-5). However, at the time of writing these suggestions have yet to be acted upon by the Tajik government.

b) Pakistan Study Tour: As noted, plans for conducting a study tour to introduce key persons from Tajikistan to Pakistan's community-based trophy hunting programs were dropped in light of the unstable situation in Pakistan. Without a fully-sanctioned government in place in both Islamabad and the Northern Areas, we felt that an international study tour could not be arranged within the time frame available to us. Also, we had not yet identified an interested donor or

funding source to provide the additional co-financing required for study tour. We therefore sought permission from the Christensen Fund to shift funds for translation of the materials on trophy hunting and management of rare wildlife species generated by the project (see earlier section on No-Cost Extensions).

3.5 Improve Access by Local Practitioners and Other Stakeholders to Information & Materials

a) Production and dissemination of manuals and other materials: NPT has devoted considerable time to translating training and educational materials in support of the community-driven conservation and livelihoods. These have been assembled and produced with the objective of making them available to a wider audience in the region. Our long-term goal is to identify a suitable Russian-language website where these materials would be located for easier access by local practitioners: in the interim, select materials will be located on a special page on SLC's website. NPT has taken the lead on this, with technical assistance from SLC.

As noted earlier, translation quality and costs pose some difficulties when trying to reach wider audiences. Experience in this and other projects indicate that it is a considerable challenge to translate materials such that a range of users find them useful and accessible: many technical terms are new or their translation ambiguous. We continue to try to find ways to reduce the costs, e.g. cost-sharing with other organizations, as well as translators who can produce language suitable for field-based practitioners.

b) Participation in Regional Conference – SLC and NPT participated in an international conference on “Best Practices in Sustainable Land and Natural Resource Management in the Tajik and Afghan Pamirs,” organized by GTZ and local partners in Khorog, GBAO. SLC gave a presentation on “Community-based Approaches to Wildlife Conservancy in High Arid Environments.” The conference was a useful opportunity to highlight and share the project's community mobilization and biodiversity conservation approaches and activities, and to meet with a range of organizations and individuals working in the region from among the more than 60 attendees (including Afghanistan, Germany and the USA).

4. Evaluation

Our approach to evaluation covers both the direct outputs of the project, and anticipated results beyond the life of the grant period, for which we are essentially planting ‘seeds of change.’ First, each objective can be assessed by the timely production of its specific output – training workshops, refined *PhotoVoice* and planning methodologies, site selection, action plans and field reports, for example. Ultimately, however, the capacity of the project to network and synergize related initiatives will be determined by the interest shown in and acceptance of its conceptual framework, its adoption and application among local organizations and professionals, and through the documentation or sharing of lessons learned.

Building capacity for integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods is both time-consuming and relatively costly with respect to transaction costs. Even in the

Himalaya, with its close association with market economies and longer history of community-level donor-stakeholder interaction, achieving self-sufficient resource management and sustained livelihoods usually takes 5-10 years.

Our means of verification include documenting requests for materials (from websites, emails, workshops, etc.) and soliciting periodic feedback from trainees, participants and third parties.

1. Build capacity in local organizations for participatory planning and action in community and culturally-based stewardship of biodiversity – Although too early to report on the outcomes, it is promising to see interest growing in the types of participatory planning approaches advocated by SLC. As indicated by their reporting, META continues to build its capacity for community-based conservation, integrating the participatory approach in supporting sustainable livelihoods based on tourism. The course on applying APPA to community-based conservation resulted in two funded field initiatives conceived and developed in large part by local participants. Following the initial APPA workshop, AKF/MSDSP reviewed its approach to village management planning and held discussions with SLC's Advisor, Nandita Jain, on ways of improving their natural resource management and general facilitation capacities. MSPSP co-funded a special Training for Trainers, with SLC arranging for TA from a regionally recognized facilitator from India. Networking among participants of the workshop and training courses offers another indicator of the interest among practitioners in improving their skills and bring a more bottom-up approach to conservation-development in the Pamir region.
2. This project supported several community-based biodiversity conservation and livelihood initiatives which are being implemented by local organizations – META's Wildlife Ecotourism and Conservancy Initiative has made significant progress in laying the groundwork for increasing their product offering in ecotourism at two widely separated sites (Ich Kul and the Pyshart valley), both supporting significant biodiversity and cultural resources. META has been exploring the potential for increased community participation and benefit-sharing in sustainable trophy hunting. They signed a collaborative agreement with one hunting organization working in important argali habitat in the South Alichur Range. Jhizev VO in Bartang prepared a proposal and has received funding for a conservation project in which they provided a 25% financing match (in the form of labor and materials). With technical assistance from SLC, Batchor VO submitted an initial proposal with co-financing at more than forty percent. This was followed by another matched add-on project. The level of interest and commitment embodied in these initiatives augers well for the sustainability of such efforts, and will hopefully taken up by other VO's with MSPSP funding more grassroots, robustly designed conservation-development initiatives. Finally, we collaborated with the CIM/GTZ project to train local villagers from several settlements (Jhizev, Ramid and Batchor) in wildlife monitoring with emphasis on ibex. By protecting such species through locally-driven patrolling and monitoring, it is hoped that wildlife will be seen more frequently by visitors and play a greater role in generating non-consumptive tourism income.
3. To date, attempts at supporting and refining sustainable hunting initiatives for the Pamir have been less effective – While the first multi-stakeholder meeting held in early 2008 appeared to bode well for fostering policy dialogue leading to more environmentally friendly

management and sharing of trophy fees with local communities, such optimism was clearly premature. Despite receiving the full support of the relevant Ministry (Agriculture, Forests and Water) and the Committee for Nature Protection, the workshop's recommendations have yet to be acted upon. Trophy licenses continue to be issued without any clear indication of how the funds generated are being used to the benefit of the resource or local people living in Marco Polo sheep habitat. Illegal poaching continues relatively unabated, with very few hunting companies exhibiting the level of commitment considered the norm for an international trophy hunting program. To date, the government has done little to strengthen its management of Marco Polo sheep, to endorse and support much needed baseline research, conduct population surveys, assess impacts of current harvesting rates, embrace scientific norms for research and management, or to make the program more transparent and sustainable over the long-term. For this to occur, interventions are needed at the very highest levels of government. Under present conditions, at least, it is beyond the power of this project or NGOs to affect the necessary change; we suspect that only international pressure, in tandem with public reporting through the Tajik media, can set the process of change in motion.

4. Improve access by local practitioners and policy-makers to the process and results/outputs of participatory planning and similar tools – It is still too early to assess this outcome, for information on the methods and materials have yet to be widely disseminated.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Christensen Fund's mission is to “buttress the efforts of people and institutions who believe in a biodiverse world infused with artistic expression and work to secure ways of life and landscapes that are beautiful, bountiful and resilient.” This involves backing locally grounded efforts that elucidate relationships between culture and environment and strengthen the community's capacity for robustly maintaining cultural and biological creativity and diversity.

In working with motivated individuals, emerging local institutions and a few rural settlements in GBAO, we quickly learned that planting seeds for fostering community-based nature conservation is no easy task. The area's underlying cultural values have been severely eroded or even entirely lost, a widespread reality for nearly all of the former Soviet republics. These countries achieved their independence less than 20 years ago, and are still struggling with poverty, corruption, lack of infrastructure, technical expertise and financial resources. Top-down, heavily subsidized jobs in government administration and the former state-sponsored technical sector have to be replaced by entrepreneurial-driven, self-managed livelihoods which are also in harmony with the region's scarce natural resources, harsh climate and its fragile mountain ecosystem.

Project transaction costs and human resources will be high, since developing the necessary skills for undertaking relatively complex, competitive market-based enterprises like wool or meat production, handicrafts, traditional homestays, and nature guiding is time-consuming and fraught with uncertainty. Creating a self-sustaining market for these goods or services, while concurrently implementing monitoring activities for ensuring compliance with species and biodiversity conservation goals, adds to the cost. Many donors fail to appreciate that

significant returns on community-based programs may not be forthcoming for 5-10 years, while implementing agencies are hard-pressed to demonstrate tangible results within the typical 2-5 year time-frame expected by donors for most conservation-development projects.

The most immediate prospects for income-generation in the Pamir appears to be tied to nature and culture-based tourism, though this sector has special challenges including the fickle nature of visitors who may be easily deterred by the Central Asia region's uneasy political climate. Rural communities suffer from geographical isolation, underdevelopment and a poor knowledge and training base, so generating sufficient capacity and know-how to service visitors will take time and persistence.

Important policy and institutional barriers at the government level need to be satisfactorily addressed for sustaining tourism, including removing the restrictive rules and regulations that presently limit travel to the Pamir by foreigners. These and related constraints have been examined under several projects, including that conducted by the Centre for Development and Environment, University of Berne and UNESCO under the project, *Development of Cultural and Eco-tourism in the Mountainous Regions of Central Asia and the Himalayas*.

Tourism is still in its infancy in Tajikistan and as noted, the Pamirs are difficult to reach. Consequently, the UNESCO-sponsored project worked to establish a more suitable framework for developing tourism, starting with building a consensus among representatives of local, regional and national authorities, as well as among local stakeholders, on how tourism can best be developed to bring equitable economic development while protecting the environment. META grew from this project.

Small community-based conservation efforts described in this report are relatively effective in large part because of their well-informed and participatory focus. A critical, generally overlooked element enabling successful conservation models involves blending site-specific scientific and indigenous knowledge of the area's wildlife, human ecology and landscape dynamics. This is best facilitated through participatory biological and social science planning workshops held at the community level, and supported by monitoring, and adaptive management and formulation of appropriate policies at the government level. These could enable scaling up of more inclusive conservation approaches to replace the largely ineffective top-down planning which is currently taking place within Tajikistan's national conservation framework.

Specific Recommendations

Based upon observations, feedback from the participants and lessons learned from related biodiversity conservation initiatives, we offer the following recommendations:

- 1) The importance of fostering community-driven conservation actions cannot be understated given the low capacity of government for supporting linked biodiversity conservation. In all sectors, there is a great need for more training in integrated conservation-development focused on more participatory, bottom-up processes instead of the top-down, regimental approach currently applied. Such training should target motivated staff from the NGOs and line agencies as well as the private business sector, and aimed at enhancing their ability to implement economically appropriate and environmentally friendly livelihoods under an adaptive grassroots networking framework where skills and resources are more widely shared.
- 2) In order to broaden opportunities for the implementation of community-managed nature and cultural conservation initiatives, we urge TCF to encourage MSDSP (as well as other

Tajikistan-based organizations) to offer their staff with training in participatory planning approaches and tools, drawing upon the materials developed under the **Mountain Voices and Community Actions: Local Initiatives in Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihoods in Central Asia** project. MSDSP could have a far greater impact, from both strategic and economic perspectives, were its staff better versed in grass-roots, participatory planning tools. However, we emphasize that the materials tools during this project represent a starting rather than ending point.

- 3) Much of the Pamir's spectacular landscapes fall within the boundaries of the Tajik National Park (TNP), and several hunting areas are located within its core zone. However, TNP is widely perceived as a paper-park, lacking in effective management with hardly any difference between the level of nature protection inside or outside its perimeter. Community-based stewardship hinges upon closer collaboration between line agencies, NGOs and the local people, in turn requiring strengthening of park staff skills from community engagement to collaborative management. Currently, the hunting companies are conducting almost all of the (limited) monitoring undertaken within the park.
- 4) The local population perceives KNP and the surrounding area more as representing additional government restrictions rather than opportunities to generate alternative and sustainable sources of income, thus highlighting the urgency of open, multi-stakeholders discussions and planning meetings.
- 5) Tajikistan's international trophy hunting program generates substantial revenue from the huge sums (\$25,000 – \$30,000 in fees) annually paid by the 40-60 foreign trophy hunters, but with almost none leaks down to the benefit of local communities. This only provokes local GBOA residents to poaching, both inside and outside of the TNP. Law enforcement is extremely weak or sporadic at best, while the overly complex structure of the agencies responsible precludes proper management of Marco Polo sheep, the very symbol of the Pamir Mountains. Implementing some or all of the recommendations made during the two consultative workshops supported under this grant would go a long way toward resolving the situation. Inherent, contradictory vested interests, coupled with inappropriate legal instruments, hamper the joint development of agreed-to goals and their constructive implementation with respect to TNP and the trophy hunting program.
- 6) Local residents and officials of GBAO tend to blame poor development on the lack of financial resources or government action, simplistic views which serve to retard action toward greater self reliance and diversification of livelihoods. Far more could be accomplished by a few trained and motivated individuals skilled in APPA, and committed to securing the necessary community buy-in (including co-financing) for sustaining biodiversity and cultural conservation. One option would be to provide more village-level grants, managed through local NGOs with backstopping from MSDSP or international organizations. Finally, donors need to increase their investment in building the capacity of local organizations so these become more effective motivators for change.
- 7) Management of sub-grants through the SudVo administrative structure is not without problems arising from corruption or other administrative deficiencies. For example, the official from Vanqala left Tajikistan for Russia without paying Batchor community organization the remaining amount (\$660) due to them under the first grant from SLC. We avoided this problem the next time by handing over cash directly ourselves. Clearly, there is an urgent need for a system with greater fiscal transparency, checks and balances, as well as verifiable reporting.

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Finally, we express our sincere thanks to all who participated in the various trainings and whose insight of local conditions helped the *Mountain Voices – Community Actions* team work so much effectively under difficult field and logistical conditions -- collectively and with the mutual interest of enabling the hardy people of GBAO better protect the region's rich biodiversity while also improving their livelihoods. Thank-you!

APPENDICES

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Appendix 1-1: Introductory APPA Workshop Schedule & Major Topics

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
AM 9-12.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the stage (T-p17) • Participant introductions (F-20) • Expectations (C-20) • Group norms (C-20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline • Biodiversity conservation- What and why • Community participation in conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline • An introduction to Appreciative Inquiry and APPA (C-80) • Problems to opportunities (C-82) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline • Participatory learning tools – bazaar (C-88) • Field trip - preparation – early lunch? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline • Setting objectives (C-45) • Discovery (C-115) • Assets for conservation and livelihoods (C-118) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline • Design (C-132) • Steps in Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elimination - Prioritisation - Use of success factors (C-135,139,148)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline • Delivery (C-154) • Following through with delivery • Start action plans
PM 2-5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the facilitator (F-79-83) • Skills of a facilitator (F-86-7) • Feedback (T-21) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation and conservation • Conservation and development linkages • Feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4-D cycle (C-112) • A personal application of 4Ds (C-112) • Participatory learning tools – bazaar (C-88) • Feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dream (C-127) • Dream outputs in conservation (C-130) • Feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action planning (C-152) • Participatory monitoring and evaluation (C-156) • Feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and share action plans • Future opportunities in conservation • Course feedback

Appendix 1-2: Organizations and Participants attending the APPA Workshop

Organization	Contact person	Focus of Organization
Civil Society Support Centre" QALAM" Khorog, Lenin str 139, office.14 Tel: (992 3522) 22330, 22473 (home), 26983, (93) 5552419 (Buribek, Director), (91) 9265530 (Zohir), 2-69-89 (h.), Fax: 22473; pamir_x5@mail.ru ; buribek@rambler.ru	Shomusalamov Zohir, Field officer	Development of civil society by conducting trainings, legal aid, designing projects. Organization provides services on: - Internet, - Copying of documents - Consultations of lawyers
OO «Tourism centre «Tourism on roof of world» Khorog, Gagarin str. 33, ap. 27, Tel.: 2-55-10; (91) 92600021, Akbar63@mail.ru (Mamadrizokhonov Akbar, Chairman, Dean of biological faculty Khorog State University, Director)	Alishoeva Nargis, member of organization	Tourism development in Pamir. Work in the field of creation of the tourist centers in the remote regions of Pamir. Organization holds seminars on tourism. In organization there are experts in the field of biology, zoology – teachers and students of Khorog State University
OO «Pamir-rational» Khorog, Kholdorov str 1A, tel.: 23017, 23161, 22593, (93) 5809756 Said_bio@mail.ru ; bio_Said@yahoo.com	Shomansurov Saidamir, Director	Organization works since 2001 Trends of activity: - Developing new methods of wildlife management - Developing economic model of wildlife management - Organization of the campaigns on protection of environment among a wide groups of population - Organization of seminars among GBAO schoolchildren, students - Developing programs and projects on preservation of a biodiversity and mountain ecosystems.
OC «Ansor» Rushan district, village Pashuf, Tel.: 21-818, 21-866, (Khorog – 2-4167)	Komilbekov Shohinbek, Chairman	Aim: Poverty reduction among population through: - Involving and use of local resources to production; - Granting small credits and creation of job seats, small enterprises - Solution of gender problems - Rational use of natural resources; - Organization of historical – area learning museum Currently in the organization there are available: - Credits for 15,000 somoni; Tailoring and embroidery workshop - Developed tourist route for tourists, bakery & nursery
OO « Murgab Environment Tourism Association (META)» Murgab, office: 992 3554 ;home: 3554-21139; meta@acted.org	Ubaidulla Mamadiev President	Expansion of tourism in the Pamir, based in Murgab
Pamir Biological Institute Khorog, Lenin str 134/4, apt. 51 Tel: 22872, 25652; (93) 5556856, 50128006,	Kadamshoev Mamadsho, fellow, Doctor of Biology,	The Institute is organized in 1969, studies fauna and flora in GBAO, including: - Department of a biodiversity of flora and fauna - Fruit growing laboratory and laboratory of selection genetics - Posts in Ishkashim, Darvaz, Vanch)

50128005; palang38@mail.ru	zoologist	Kadamshoev: Head of zoological studies. Group of zoologists studies invertebrate (spineless) animals in high mountains, specific structure of fauna – mountain goat, Siberian goats other)
State agency OOIIT «Tajik National Park»	Matlab Safarmamadov, officer Shugnan district, village council Porshinev, village Kushk	Agency organizes a wide range of ecotourism to cultural and natural objects. Programs are developed for all amateurs of wild nature, mountaineering, rafting, and research in archeology, ethnography and biology. Development of programs on ecotourism on territory of a nature protection zone.
Nature Protection Committee of Murgan region Murgan region, tel.: 7-81 (office), 5-76 (h.)	Akhmedsharipov Abdurazak, Chairman	Nature protection, controlling functions over use of natural resources and objects, Ecological education and awareness raising of local population; Ecological expertise, EIA, etc. Programs on rational use of natural resources, etc.
Village organization (VO) «Langar» , Ishkashim region, Jamoat Zong, village Langar, tel.: 2-94 (code 21)	Kachbekov Zubaidullo, Chairman	Organization operates since 2002 Rural development programs– poultry breeding, plant growing, vegetable growing, cows breeding, etc. for supporting livelihoods of members of organization.
Village organisation (VO) «Yamchun» , Ishkashim region, Jamoat Ptup, village Yamchun, tel.: 2-26	Siyaparov Mirzobek, Chairman	114 members in the organization. The organization works with in the field of agriculture development. Operational experience – in micro financing projects
Rural organization (VO) «Bachor» , Shugnan region, Village council Vankalla, Tel.: 992 3522 2-36-54; asli4@rambler.ru ; asli1986013@mail.ru	\Kurboniev Aslisho, Member of organization	5-th year student of Khorog State University. Area of interests – protection of the wild nature of native land. There is a big desire to work with the ecological and nature protection organizations on protection of wild animal and rare endangered species under extinction. There is experience in observing animals, their behavior, etc.
Rural organization (VO) «Ravmed» , Rushan region, Village council Bortang, village Ravmed, Deh str, code (radio), tel.: 59-19	Mamadaliyev Partov, Chairman	Work in the field of small and micro– credits. Support to farmers livelihoods development
Village organisation (VO) «Khichez» , Village council Bartang, Bavovz str	Safarmamadov Rustam, Chairman	Organization works in the field of agriculture –goats breeding (village from 1992) Experience – with international programs, as MSDSP since beginning of 2007 up to present time. Needs material support of donors. Problems – lack of land.
Village organization (VO) «Chizev» , Rushan region, Village council Rushan, village Chizev, tel: (radio) – direct	Gulshaev Djuma Chairman	Work in area of raising livelihoods of village population Activity on live stock breeding.
German technical cooperation GTZ Khorog, Lenin str 54, 736000, tel: (992 3522) 2869, 5861755, ecology_b85@mail.ru ecology_b@rambler.ru ; (93) 515515, afabian@mail.ru , afabian_ded@gmx.de	Bunavsha Mislimgshoeva officer	Organization «German technical cooperation» closely co-operates now with the state organizations in 3 directions: - Sustainable forestry management; - Management of pastures - The program on medical herbs. Many projects with attraction of practitioners from Khorog and European countries.
AKDN Aga-Khan Foundation, MSDSP khduonazar.ojiamadov@akdn.org Roshkalin region, Tel.: 21273, 21147, 21212; Jamoat Roshkala, Village kala	Shirin Kurbonkhonov, Manager	Organization works with local communities and also implements projects in the field of plant growing, live stock breeding, drinking water supply; Works with public organizations – holds seminars. Close contacts with Khukumats. Programs to support communities.

		Working experience – since 1995
MSDSP in Murgab Murgab region, Village Murgab, Osh-60 str, tel.: 21-033 (w., office), 2 1653 (д.)	Garibmamadov Sukhrob,	Support to local organizations in Murgab
«Organization of snow leopard conservation in USA» (SLC-USA) USA, 3736, South 12 th Street, Arlington, VA 22204; Phone: + 703 271 0478 njain3@netzero.com	Nandita Jane, Ph.D., Trainer of training course, SLC Consultant	<u>Nandita Jane, Ph.D.</u> conducted active work in mountain areas of Central and Southern Asia on integrating conservation of culture and nature with economic development. The expert on joint processes and rural livelihoods mechanisms
«Organization of snow leopard conservation in USA» (SLC-USA) USA, Rodney Jackson, Ph.D. Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy, 18030 Comstock Ave, Sonoma, CA 95476 Fax: (707) 933-9816; email: rodjackson@mountain.org	Rodney Jackson, Ph.D., Director	Based in 2000, Organization on Snow leopards Conservation (SLC) operates at Cat Action Treasury (CAT), as registered noncommercial organization. SLC is aimed for demonstration and assistance to community management of conservation of snow leopards, its trophy and area in Central and Southern Asia. Examples of projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of biodiversity by community – Conducting work with local partners at realization and rendering support to initiatives on community management and monitoring of snow leopards and corresponding biological diversity in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Tajikistan. • Community development – Efforts to link conservation of biological diversity with livelihoods mechanisms, for example, Himalayan Homestays and Nature Guides programs which increase incomes of households due to cultural and ecological tourism in India (Ladakh, Spiti and Sikkim). • Community Education – Support to education programs, developed in local scale and socially and cultural relevant, for example, Young foresters and their activity on education in remote areas of Dolpa and Mugu in Nepal. <p>SLC tries to transfer the conflict between human being and wild nature into possibility of fruitful social and cultural changes. For example, by reducing plunders of cattle and linking incomes with conservation of biodiversity, most likely the local population will perceive large predators and their trophy as assets, rather than varmints to be killed. Realizing high economic and social value of wild plants and animals, and supporting by high understanding ecological bases of environment, rural communities are in the best position to be placed as competent, effective and constant protectors of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. SLC is recognized as innovator and the leader in initiatives on community economic development and preservation of a biodiversity. In 2005 SLC Himalayan Homestays program has received the World prize in the field of tourism from magazine «Travel and Leisure» and "is highly appreciated" for the first choice/contribution to travel for preservation of endangered species under extinction. SLC Himalayan Homestays program is often mentioned in a press for innovations and commitment in rendering real help to rural settlements at their nature management.</p> <p>SLC has small staff (<10) and first of all conducts work due to local cooperation with the internal organizations of Central and Southern Asia. Now SLC and its partners operate in China (Cinday), India (Ladah, Spiti), Mongolia (Southern Gobi) Nepal (Top Mustang, Dolpa, Mugu), Pakistan (Baltistan, Khunjerab), Tajikistan (Pamir) and Russia (Altai).</p> <p><u>Rodney Jackson, Ph.D.</u> Director, SLC. Biologist on conservation of biological diversity with 30-year-old working experience in the field of community and joint protection of wild nature and natural</p>

		resources in Central and Southern Asia. Recognized leading world expert on endangered snow leopard kinds, and member of IUCN Cat Specialist Group.
<p>«Team on Nature Protection »/UNEP/COM Dushanbe , 734024, Buhoro 34-7, tel./fax: (992 372) 214060 dop_dushanbe@tjinter.com abdurahimova@mail.ru</p>	<p>Firuz Abdurahimova, Doctor of Biology, Director</p>	<p>Team on Nature Protection is based in 1972, and registered in 1997 Since 2004 is representative of UNEP (United Nations Environment Program), Member of Social Council of International Commission on Sustainable Development and RPDOOS - (Report on a sustainable development in Central Asia). Activity trends: - Ecological programs on raising awareness, initiatives on conservation of biological diversity, and the program on spreading information on legislation and policy, covering various ecological issues. - Coordinator CA Festival on Eco-journalism - Member of the Governmental working group on realization of the Aargus Convention in Tajikistan (for more details contact NPT).</p>
<p>Nature Protection Agency (GBAO) Khorog, (93) 5056808</p>	<p>Head: Marodmamad Mirasanov</p>	<p>State control over the use and preservation of natural resources</p>
<p>TV «Badakhshon» Khorog, Diyakov str 65, apt. 8, tel: 24970 (h.), 26159, 22223, 26569, 24970, 26934 (w.) 26539 (next office), mgulos@mail.ru, sayod@mail.ru</p>	<p>Gulos Mamadloikov</p>	<p>Spread of information through TV channels in GBAO.</p>

Appendix 2-1: Field Training Course in Wildlife Appraisal & Planning for Biodiversity Linked Livelihoods

Workshop held September 18, 2007 at Keng Shiber

Session	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
AM 9am – noon 3 hrs (180 mins) including tea	Travel to Field Study Site at Keng Shiber (Alichur range)	<i>Discovering & Valuing Biodiversity Assets:</i> What are Biodiversity Resources? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Resources & Biodiversity Assets Linkages with development Role of local participation Objectives of SLC/META project 	<i>Spatial Mapping & Temporal Patterns of Assets</i> Reporting results from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photovoice Resource Mapping Discussion Temporal Patterns of Biodiversity Assets Introduction	<i>Discovering Social & Institutional Assets</i> Social Institutions (Venn Diagram) Other PLA Tools: brief review
Lunch	1.5 hrs 12:00-1:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
PM 13:30 –17:30 hrs 4 hours (240 mins) incl tea	Setting the Stage Opening Session (Evening) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductions Workshop Objectives Norms Expectations 	<i>Discovering how assets vary spatially:</i> Appreciative Inquiry & APPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciating & Valuing Assets Problem & Opportunity planning APPA & the “4 D’s” Spatial Mapping of Assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping wildlife habitat & natural resources PhotoVoice Documentation Feedback (1520 mins) 	Discovering how assets vary temporally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Resource Patterns Seasonal Calendars Historic or Long-term Changes Trend Lines Reporting: <i>Filling in any gaps in Baseline Information using previous tools</i> Feedback (1520 mins)	<i>Discovering Factors & Threats that Affect Biodiversity & Livelihood Opportunities (Part 1)</i> Threats to wildlife, natural resource & tourist assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of threats for each resource Identify indicators for “wellbeing” of resources Discovering Current Successes for livestock production, wildlife protection, tourism & hunting activities Feedback

Session	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
AM 3 hrs	<p><i>Conceptual Models & Setting Stage for Dream:</i></p> <p>Conceptual Model:</p> <p>Development of Site Specific Conceptual Model showing key biodiversity assets & conservation targets</p>	<p><i>Design – Constructing the Future</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Identify activities or interventions meeting objectives (assessing dreams & activities) • Prioritize activities & identify gaps • Rank threats & update Conceptual Model 	<p><i>Design(continued)</i></p> <p>Preliminary Product Planning for Tourism & Wildlife Viewing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise Matrix Opportunities, constraints & potential solutions for non consumptive nature based tourism linked with pastoral livelihoods • Preliminary Action Plan • Initial Indicators for Success 	<p>Participants return to Murghab and/or Khorog</p> <p><u>Note:</u> META will complete the Design & Delivery activities</p>
Lunch	<i>1.5 hrs 12:00:13:30</i>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
PM 4 hrs	<p>The Dream Envisaging the Future:</p> <p>A Wildlife Paradise Generating Income through Biodiversity Conservation <i>Local environment in 1 year, 23 years, 5 years & 10 years time</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback 	<p><i>Design (continued)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Designing a linked Biodiversity Livelihoods Project for Uch Kol • Feedback 	<p><i>Review & Wrap up</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions & answers • Delivery Personal / group commitments • Monitoring & Rediscovery • Cybertracker training refresher • Workshop Feedback & Evaluation • Certificates & Vote of Thanks 	<p>Note: META completed the Delivery activities at a succeeding workshop.</p>

Appendix 2-2: Assessing Traditional Ecological Knowledge using APPA & other participatory tools – examples of information gathered

1 Historical Timeline / Trends:

- Livestock numbers (small such as sheep or goats separately from large-bodied like yak or horse)
- Trend in Marco Polo numbers
- Wolf population
- Pasture condition or forage nutritive quality
- Availability of teresken
- Dates of very severe winters, excellent summer pasture
- any other asset of activity of ecological or economic interest

2. Seasonal Calendar of Activities or Ecological Events such as plant phenology:

- seasonal work schedule & times when busiest (separate men & women's roles & responsibilities)
- livestock movements according to each season and/or major pasture area (name, different symbol of each type of livestock)
- Livestock forage & pasture management activities, transport & sale of livestock, etc
- best wildlife viewing times
- Marco Polo herding patterns, breeding, lambing etc
- months when poaching is most prevalent, time when foreign hunters visit
- any other items important to local livelihoods

3. Map of Community Assets:

- mountains, pastures, rivers, streams & lakes
- cultural & sacred areas
- teresken & medicinal plant collection areaa
- wildlife areas (hotspots)
- map showing regional and/or local wildlife movement corridors, wintering places, breeding habitat etc
- any other biodiversity of significance (including rare plants, special communities like caves, hot springs etc)
- settlements, roads, community services
- other assets, including important tourism features or sites
- location of trophy hunting camps, border patrol or control points etc.

Appendix 3-1: *PhotoVoice* and Community-based Resource Conservation Training Workshop Schedule, Topics & Participants

Schedule and Topics of *Photovoice* Training held at Bacid village, June 2-5, 2008

Time	Session	Objectives	Activities	Comments
Session 1	Introduction Outline Expectations Norms Housekeeping	Set the context for the course		
Session 2	Why use pictures?	To show the value of graphic and visual representation	Brainstorm and discussion	Develop session from PLA manual
Session 3	PV – Concepts and Background	To introduce the idea of PV, its history	Presentation, Q&A	Find some more material as background
Session 4	PV – Cycle/Stages	To familiarize participants with the process of PV	Presentation	
Session 5	PV in Practice	To show some of the uses and impacts of PV	Exhibition and discussion	Get photos from 2006 printed with narratives
Session 6	Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods	To introduce the general topic to be explored	Session from APPA course	Get material translated from draft manual
Session 7	Identifying the conservation issues in the village	To identify and agree on the questions/issues to be explored	Small groups, discussion	
Session 8	Using the camera – protocols and practice	To become familiar with using cameras	Presentation and practice	Explore the challenges of doing this with people who are not familiar with digital or other cameras

Time	Session	Objectives	Activities	Comments
Session 9	Ethical issues in PV	To raise and discuss the range of ethical issues, and the dangers of working without guidelines	Discussion, Q&A	
Session 10	Taking the pictures	To explore the agreed questions, and learn how to work in a team	Field session – ½ day	
Session 11	Selecting the pictures Developing the narrative	To reach consensus on choice, categories and identify key themes and issues of concern and interest	Working with computers to choose and discuss what gets chosen and why	Need computers charged, may need to reorganize sessions if able to develop pictures in Khorog
Session 12	Sharing the results	To disseminate results and consider how other people get interest and involved	Using computers or printed pictures if possible	
Session 13	PV Applications	Consider how PV can be use in community conservation and development, and other applications	Discussion, small groups, (use what, why, who type questions)	
Session 14	Group and Personal Actions	To test learning and follow-up	Cards, etc.	
Session 15	Evaluation and Closing	To assess course delivery		

Photovoice Training Workshop - List of Participants

№	Organization	Name	Contact address
1	Secondary school Basid № 28	Gulomsho Kamolov, math teacher	Rushan district, Bartang Basid villadge. Radio connection 59-17 (Nnazarbek)
2	VO “Bacid”	Kamchibek Mardonaev, engineer of land	Rushan district, Bartang Basid villadge. Radio connection 59-17 (Nnazarbek)

3	VO “Bacid”	Akram Ruzadorov, chairman of VO “Bacid”	Rushan district, Bartang Basid villadge. Radio connection 59-17 (Nnazarbek)
4	Jamoat “Bacid”” (SudVO)	Nazarbek Khufijov, the chairman SudVO	Rushan district, Bartang Basid villadge. Radio connection 59-17 (Nnazarbek)
5	The owner of an home-stay in village Bardara	Muborakkadamov Muborakkadam, owner of home –stay	Rushan district, Bartang Bardara villadge. Radio connection 59-17 (Nnazarbek)
6	Gide in village Bardara	Mamadbekov Nazardod	Rushan district, Bartang Bardara villadge. Radio connection 59-17 (Nnazarbek)
7	VO «Bachor», Shugnan	Kurboniev Aslisho, Member of VO	Village Organization(VO) «Bachor», Shugnan district, Vanqala Jamaat Тел.: 992 3522 2-36-54, (91) 9261942, 23654 asli4@rambler.ru ; asl1986013@mail.ru (93) 5141945 (Umed friend); (93) 5876025 (Tahmina friend); 91 9264446 (brather)
8	Pamirian Bilogical Institute	Oshurmamdov Nuzur (Junior member of PBI)	Sokhcharv village, (Khorog), Karamsho st.24, flat 10 93-5882027, 2-66-88 (a.) nuzar80@mail.ru
9	(GTZ)	Mamadgazanova Mohnura Member	Khorog, st 54, 736000, tel.: (992 3522) 2869, Khorog, Tel93-5331511, 27579; mohnura@mail.ru
10	Project	Umetbekov Amet , International expert on“Snow Leopard and wild hoof”	Ananeva village , Isikul region, The republic of Kirgizistan Tel. 919-556532
11	Guide Association of Pamir (GAP), студенты UCA in MTO (Mountain Tour Operators)	Saidrahmonov Sharaf, operator of Pamir Tour(Guide) Heard director of Pamir Guide Association “Heaven”	Porshinev village Tel. 919-266804; Email pamirguides@gmail.com
12	University of Central Asia. Khorog	Zoolshoeva Jandiya	Khorog , Shotemur Street 135/3, flat. 44, tel: 2-28-53 zoolshoeva_zhandiya@yahoo.com
13	MSDSP Office in Khorog (Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP) Aga Khan Foundation Tajikistan) – PEU (Policy Evaluation Unit)	Emily Wall	35 Lenin Street, Khorog, Tajikistan, (93) 5143385; emily.wall@akdn.org
14	OO «Guide Association of Pamir	Saparov Pamirbek, driver	Murgab d (Khorog) 93-5083973, 919-266905

(GAP)»	pamirbeksaparov@mail.ru
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Trainers and translator

15	The Snow Leopard conservancy in USA (SLC-USA)	Dr Nandita Jain expert in participatory method Consultant of SLC	USA, 3736, South 12 th Street, Arlington, VA 22204 Phone: + 703 271 0478; njain3@netzero.com
16	OO «Nature Protection Team»/UNEP/COM	Firuz Abdurakhimova, Director of NGO	Dushanbe , 734024, Bukhoro street 34-7, tel./fax: (992 372) 214060, 935052564 dop_dushanbe@tjinter.com ; abdurahimova@mail.ru
17	Translator	Salima Imomnazarova Khorog State University (KSU)	tel.: (93) 5142237 Imronshoev st 56, Khorog salima_imomnazarova@yahoo.com

Partners

18	Office of MSDSP in Khorog (Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP) Aga Khan Foundation Tajikistan)	Mariella Lezeur, Tourism Coordinator in GBAO	35 Lenin Street, Khorog, Tajikistan, E-mail: marielle.lezeur@akdn.org Tel: (+992) 835-222-2699 (work)/ Tel: (+992) 93-505-3799 (cell)
19	Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP). Aga Khan Foundation 50 An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network	Merubon Ganjibekov, Tourism Local Manager	Lenin Street, Khorog, Tajikistan, E-mail: ganjibek.merubon@akdn.org Tel: (+992) 93 584 93 72 (cell); 835-222-2699 (office) Website: www.akdn.org
20		Shagarf Mulloabdol	г. Khorog, Tajikistan, (93) 5052361

Appendix 3-2: A Summary of *PhotoVoice* – Goals and Process

Background

Photovoice blends a grassroots approach to photography and social action. It provides cameras not to specialists, policy makers, or professionals, but to people with least access to those who make decisions affecting their lives. From the villages of rural China to the homeless shelter of Ann Arbor, Michigan, people have used *Photovoice* to amplify/strengthen their visions and experience.

Photovoice has three goals.

- 1) It enables people to record and reflect their community's strengths and problems.
- 2) It promotes dialogue about important issues through group discussion and photographs.
- 3) Finally, it engages policymakers.

It follows the premise that, as Caroline C Wang (the originator of PV) explains, "What experts think is important may not match what people at the grassroots think is important."

Definition

Photovoice is a process by which people can identify, represent, and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique. It entrusts cameras to the hands of people to enable them to act as recorders, and potential catalysts for action and change, in their own communities. It uses the immediacy of the visual image and accompanying stories to provide evidence and to promote an effective, participatory means of sharing expertise to create a common future.

Concept

The *PhotoVoice* concept was developed by Caroline C. Wang and Mary Ann Burris and has been described in a series of research articles. They used three main sources to create the *Photovoice* concept:

- the theoretical literature on education feminist theory, and documentary photography;
- the efforts of community photographers and participatory educators to challenge assumptions about who is represented and who are the creator of information; and
- Their experience applying the process in the Ford Foundation-supported Yunnan Women's Reproductive Health and Development Program.

Summary

Photovoice enables us to gain "the possibility of perceiving the world from the viewpoint of the people who lead lives that are different from those traditionally in control of the means for imaging the world." As such, this approach to participatory appraisal values the knowledge put forth by people as a vital source of expertise. It confronts a fundamental problem of community assessment: what professionals, researchers, specialists, and outsiders think is important may completely fail to match what the community thinks is important. Most significant, the images produced and the issues discussed and framed by people may stimulate policy and change. *Photovoice* is a methodology to reach, inform, and organize community members, enabling them to prioritize their assets, strengths, concerns and discuss visions, problems and solutions. *Photovoice* goes beyond the conventional role of community assessment by inviting people to promote their own and their community's well-being.

Photovoice Methodology and Goals

Photovoice has three main goals:

- to enable people to record and reflect their community's strengths and concerns;
- to promote critical dialogue and knowledge about personal and community issues through large and small group discussions of photographs; and
- to reach policy makers.

Photovoice is highly flexible and can be adapted to specific participatory goals (such as needs assessment, asset mapping, and evaluation), different groups and communities, and distinct conservation, policy and other issues.

Stages

The stages of *Photovoice* can include:

- conceptualizing the problem
- defining broader goals and objectives
- recruiting policy makers as the audience for *Photovoice* findings
- training the trainers
- conducting *Photovoice* training
- devising the initial theme/s for taking pictures
- taking pictures
- facilitating group discussion
- critical reflection and dialogue
 - selecting photographs for discussion
 - contextualizing and storytelling
 - sorting issues, themes, and theories
- documenting the stories
- conducting the evaluation
- reaching policy makers, donors, media, researchers, and others who may be mobilized to create change
- conducting participatory evaluation of policy and program implementation

Community Training and Process

The first *Photovoice* training begins with a discussion of cameras, ethics, and power; ways of seeing photographs; and a philosophy of giving photographs back to community members as a way of expression appreciation, respect, or camaraderie. The curriculum may then move to address mechanical aspects of camera use. Community people using *Photovoice* engage in a three-stage process that provides the foundation for analyzing the pictures they have taken:

1. **Selecting** – choosing those photographs that most accurately reflect the community's concerns and assets. The participatory approach dictates this first stage. So that people can lead the discussion, it is they who choose the photographs. They select photographs they considered most significant, or simply like best, from each roll of film or set of digital pictures they had taken.

2. **Contextualizing** – telling stories about what the photographs mean. The participatory approach also generates the second stage, contextualizing or storytelling. This occurs in the process of group discussion, suggested by the acronym VOICE, voicing our individual and collective experience. Photographs alone, considered outside the context of their own voices and stories, and would contradict the essence of *Photovoice*. People describe the meaning of their images in small and large group discussions.

3. **Sorting or codifying** – identifying the issues, themes, or theories that emerge

The participatory approach gives multiple meanings to single images and thus frames the third stage, codifying or sorting. In this stage, participants may identify three types of dimensions that arise from the dialogue process: issues, themes, or theories. They may categorise issues when the concerns targeted for action are practical, immediate, and tangible. This is the most direct application of the analysis. They may also codify themes and patterns, or develop theories that are grounded in data that have been systematically gathered and analyzed in collective discussion.

Conclusions

Photovoice turns on involving people in defining issues. Such an approach avoids the distortion of fitting data into a predetermined framework; through it we hear and understand how people make meaning themselves, or construct what matters to them. *Photovoice* “is not simply the shuffling of information around, but involves people reflecting on their own community portraits and voices and on what questions can be linked into more general concepts or can be seen to be interrelated”. It is a method that enables people to define for themselves and others, including policy makers, what is worth remembering and what needs to be changed.

Do and Don'ts of Photography for Photovoice

Exploring Culture and Nature in the Pamirs, Tajikistan (META and SLC)

The “Do’s”:

- 1) Ask people beforehand for permission to take their photographs – explain why you would like to take a picture
- 2) Respect people’s wishes about what they would or would not like to be photographed
- 3) Think carefully about how best to portray the subject in the most meaningful and informative manner (with a digital camera you can easily remove pictures which do not illustrate your objective or violate the subject’s expressed wishes)
- 4) Carefully apply the rules that your facilitators give you for the *Photovoice* methodology

Some “Don’ts”:

- 1) Do not take close-up pictures of people’s faces unless they provide you with permission to do so (try to keep the camera a respectful distance away)
- 2) Do not move or disturb historical or archeological artifacts – rather photograph them as they appear
- 3) Do not clean the lens with your clothing, since sand and other dirt can easily scratch the lens and render it useless (instead use a freshly washed soft cotton or silk cloth especially devoted to this purpose)
- 4) When in the field, avoid use the LCD viewing screen since it consumes a lot of battery power (you want to make sure that you will have enough power to capture those unexpected situations which may present themselves later)

Some Comments on Using Digital Cameras:

- 1) Before taking a picture, ask yourself what the most important point of observation is that you are trying to convey through capturing a photograph
- 2) Then try to visualize how best to capture that image or representation, whether by moving away or coming closer, by zooming in and out with the lens, and from what angle of view the picture is best taken. What should or should not be in the background to be most compatible with the subject? Is there something in the picture that could distract the viewer from your intended subject or otherwise alter their perception? These can be thought of the spatial components of a photograph.

- 3) Another important consideration is to ask yourself “what is the best time to capture this image?” For example, when people are smiling or looking serious, when livestock are present or when people are doing a particular task. This forms the time element of photography. Try to take the picture at the “time of action.”
- 4) If possible, seek to capture your perceptions or thoughts within a few photographs rather than many – remember that you can always remove an image and try again when using a digital camera
- 5) Take a deep breath and hold the camera steady while pressing the shutter
- 6) Finally, keep the camera warm in your pocket or inside clothing when it is cold – the batteries will last much longer.

Best Practices – Information for Trainers

Be aware of, and execute ways to minimize, participants' risks, including physical harm and loss of privacy to themselves or their community. Put another way, participants' safety and well-being are paramount.

Facilitators should:

- describe during group discussions the participants' responsibilities when they carry a camera to respect the privacy and rights of others;
- facilitate critical dialogue that yields specific suggestions and ways to respect others' privacy and rights; and
- emphasize that no picture is worth taking if it begets the photographer harm or ill will.

The photovoice approach involves obtaining written [consent](#) from participants (and, if appropriate, parent or guardian). In addition, participants are asked to obtain written [consent](#) from the people they photograph. This has some drawbacks – it sometimes yields stiff, less spontaneous pictures – but experience has shown that the drawbacks are outweighed by the advantages: preventing misunderstanding and building trust by giving participants an opportunity to describe the project and solicit the subjects' own insights about a community issue; establishing the possibility of a long-term relationship that may allow for future photographs and exchange of knowledge; and acquiring written [consent](#) to use the photographs to promote community wellness.

The first workshop never begins with the distribution of camera but with an introduction to the photovoice concept and method. It starts with group discussion about cameras, power, and ethics, potential risks to participants, how to minimize these risks, and the practice of giving photographs back to community members to express appreciation, respect, or camaraderie.

Shared questions might include the following:

- What is an acceptable way to approach someone to take their picture?
- Should someone take pictures of other people without their knowledge?
- What kind of responsibility does carrying a camera confer?
- What would you not want to be photographed doing?
- To whom might you wish to give photographs, and what might be the implications?

SLC and NPT provided further reading material for issues relating to ethics.

Appendix 4-1: Activity Plan for Pyshart Community-based Conservation Area for 2008

Activity	Purpose	Success indicator	Who	When	Resources
1. Institutional development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General meeting of the Communities of Pyshart valley; ▪ Meeting of Pyshart Conservancy committee (PCC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up Pyshart Conservation Committee (PCC); ▪ Election Pyshart Conservation Committee; ▪ To develop activity plan proposed by the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nomination of 12 candidates for the committee ▪ Activity plan confirmed by PCC & functional. 	META, Community members; Local govt representatives; Nature Protection Department; Tajik National Park; PCC	March	Project & community
2. Develop Environmental awareness & behavior of local communities & guests: Training of yurt stay providers on eco friendly service techniques;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To increase environmentally friendly services & attitude; ▪ Elaborating & adopting Code of conduct of Service Providers & visitors; ▪ To set up information corners to visitors in yurt stays; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 Yurt stay owners provided training on eco-friendly service techniques; ▪ Information corner for visitors organized in 3 yurt stays; ▪ Communities in Pyshart valley & visitors respect & adhere there elaborated code of conduct; 	META, Community members, & PCC)	April	Project & community
3. Wildlife conservation Training on community based wildlife monitoring & transect survey; Meeting with key informed community members; Meeting with Pyshart CB Conservancy Committee; Community Based patrolling the wildlife area in Pyshart;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To increase capacity of local communities for monitoring, protection & management of wildlife & natural resources; ▪ To design & offer to tourists CB wildlife observation product; ▪ To elaborate wildlife area development & management plan ▪ Design & implement CB patrolling plan of Wildlife habitat; ▪ Minimize threats to wildlife habitat in Pyshart valley; ▪ To reduce a threat it has natural resources; 	Designed 2 Community -based products on wildlife observation;	META, Community members, representatives of Nature Protection Department, National park & PCC	May, June May June 2008 March 2009	
4. Develop most beneficial tourism employment & income generating activities: CB product design meeting; Reconnaissance & Study tour in Sasyk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop CB products ▪ Selection of SP pack animals ▪ local guides, ▪ cultural programs ▪ yurt stay, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 25 Community members mobilized to develop ecotourism activity; ▪ Two trekking route developed in Gumbezdun kol pass & Sayk ▪ 2 Yurt stays in Gumbezdun kol 	META, Community members, representatives of Nature Protection Department, National park & PCC	April May June	

Handicrafts, & other employment income generating activities: milk & leather processing & etc) through training. Develop joint tourism products with META, especially longer trekking with benefits to local communities;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ wildlife viewing ▪ trekking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> organized ▪ 15 families involved in ecotourism activity; ▪ Pyshart valley becomes tourist attraction 			
5. Conservation of culture, customs, & tradition. Meeting with artisans among community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop traditional music, songs, games (ordo, ulak trtysh), handicrafts as a tourism attraction & offer; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Handicraft group created among ladies; ▪ Singers & dancers identified; 	META, Community members, & PCC	July	
6. Trainings: Training of nature guides & porters; Training of Yurt stay providers	<p>Training communities on wildlife monitoring & transect survey;</p> <p>To increase capacity of service providers & quality of services;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 Guides & 2 porters provided training on eco-friendly service techniques & summer transect survey; ▪ 3Yurt stay providers received training on eco-friendly service techniques; 	META, Community members, & PCC	May June	
7 Alternative energy plan, developing alternative energy utilization: Manufacturing solar, panels purchasing kerosene stoves to demonstrate. Training & dissemination of solar pans & kerosene stove			META, Community members, representative of Nature Protection Department, National park & PCC	May, June	
8. Waste management Meeting with Community members on Garbage management;	Planning & initiation Garbage management activity:	1 meeting organized among communities in Pyshar valley;	META, Community members, representatives of Nature Protection Department, National park & PCC	June	
9. Developing Visibility materials on conservancy; Participatory design & planning meeting to develop Leaflet on community based tourism activity Sign boards on nature protection.	To enhance visibility of CB conservation activities of Pyshart valley;	300 Leaflets on CB conservation activities of Pyshart valley developed, printed & disseminated;	META, Community members, National park & PCC	November	
10. Develop & promote market linkages for CB tourism products from the Pyshart valley. Meeting with PCC	To develop marketing research & plan for & tourism products;	Marketing plan is confirmed by the PCC	META, Community members, & PCC	October	

Appendix 4.2 SWOT Analysis of Potential Problems/barriers & Opportunities for Herder-supported Tourism Livelihoods

Key issues	Current situation	Problems	Opportunities
Biodiversity Conservation – Livelihood Field Initiatives	Built capacity in local communities for community based stewardship of biodiversity is on going by training & planning;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of environmental awareness & cultural preservation activities in local & government level; ▪ Management system of natural resources are impenetrable & opaque; ▪ The population is not included in decision making; ▪ uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources that is leading to ecological disaster; ▪ Regional & Government authorities have even hostile stance to foreign investigations of natural resources; ▪ Absence of capacity of local & Regional & Government level to develop & planning strategy documents on sustainable natural resources management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promote capacity building activities for communities in environmental awareness & cultural preservation in district level; ▪ by means of cultural & ecological initiatives to foster community mobilization, individual initiatives for CB conservancy activities; ▪ devising a local strategy to respond communities socio-economic problems; ▪ to develop collective actions for reaching out to policy-makers; ▪ capacity building activities for government officials in community based environmental awareness & cultural preservation (visits, meetings, round table & workshops pilot project by small grants to test the possibility of & to initiate practicing community based conservancy & stewardship activities; ▪ Inclusion the East Pamir in the process classification & recognition for Man & Biosphere programme.
	<p>The project set up first step with rural communities: -CB stewardship model Pyshart Conservancy Committee in Pyshart valley; - designed & implemented stewardship & related livelihood activities that can serve as pilot models for Murghab district & GBAO;</p> <p>- Local organization META & communities interested & have initiatives in community-based biodiversity conservation & livelihood initiatives;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indifference or obstacles to obtaining authorization from administrative authorities for any initiatives of community based conservation & enterprise activities (for META, Village organizations & local communities); ▪ Community-based activities not recognized as an important & focal public opinion for socio-economical development by the local authorities: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ set up intensive visits dialogues with high official authorities in National level for & empowering communities their importance; ▪ obtaining at high government level document from Ministry of Environment protection allowing META to implement CB stewardship related livelihood activities & land management project; ▪ capacity building activities for government officials in community based environmental awareness & cultural preservation, changes in local attitudes & actions toward cultural conservation or biodiversity (visits, meetings, round table & workshops) ▪ Visibility materials as information boards, leaflets on protection of environmental & cultural heritages; ▪ inclusion in local & regional websites project outputs ▪ Capacity building META in marketing ecotourism products in international Fairs & creation & promotion of ecotourism network; ▪ Strengthening META trekking equipments; ▪ Support two local organizations together with government

			organizations in implementing community-based biodiversity conservation & livelihood initiatives with a focus on sustainable extraction, hunting practices, species / habitat conservation & linking these with income generation;
Unsustainable use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pilot project initiated to explore local practices in sustainable use of natural resources; - Problem analyzing for the improvement of natural resource management achieved; - Project developed & promoting an alternative non-consumptive scenario for wildlife conservation; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ overgrazing of pastures, soil erosion & desertification; ▪ deficiency of fodder for domestic animals & wild ungulates (Marco Polo sheep, Ibexes etc.) in winter ▪ lack of resources to construct additional pens for animals & herders house for spring pasture, ▪ expensive transport means & fuel; ▪ high prices of coal force local people to use Tersken for heating & cooking. ▪ almost 50% of the pasture land has been degraded or completely destroyed; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of experiments on transferable Tersken rehabilitation & temporary recovery of pasture land; ▪ Development & application of methods for creation of hay meadows on degraded lands; ▪ Enhancing awareness activities, communication & dialogue with local & government authorities on sustainable pasture management; ▪ Participatory elaboration, discussion & implementation of new standard pasture use contract on joint pasture management by local tenants & Local authorities (Jamoat) ▪ Trainings & support representatives of National [ark, Nature Protection Department, Local authorities & local people on joint pasture management; ▪ - lobbying of good practices to political decision makers & transfer to regions outside of the pilot territory;
Sustainable wildlife protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Given the sensitivity of this issue, through trainings & workshop; - Built relationships with key players (Hunting concessions, Nature protection department in district, province & National level); - Project developed & set up basis for community - based ecotourism infrastructure, wildlife viewing opportunities & development of nature stewardship among local pastoralists in Uch kol & Pyshart valleys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ decreasing of number of Marco Polo sheep along poaching considered as global issue, which assumes involvement of international & high official stakeholders; ▪ poaching main threat for wildlife & habitat due to poor controlling system by government structures (by Nature Protection department, police & other structures); ▪ Distrusting of local authorities by local community & civil societies in conservancy activities; ▪ lack of transparency or downward movement of local benefits from current Marco Polo sheep trophy; ▪ the management of Community-based structure need to be strengthened to allow for full sustainability; ▪ the project, given its limited budget & scale of environmental degradation in district, can only have a limited impact on environmental protection; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promoting policy changes at high government level through dialogues & meetings; ▪ to produce a participatory (together representatives of Ministry of Environment Protection) action plan for continued activities in support of sustainable hunting & ecotourism will be as a result of these activities. ▪ to control hunting, & supporting wildlife-friendly tourism operations with partnership with Ministry of Environment Protection, communities, organizations, hunting companies, government officials & international conservation groups; ▪ refine & support sustainable hunting initiatives for the Pamir, in partnership with Ministry of Environment Protection & relevant government authorities. ▪ Promoting community – based nature stewardship among local pastoralists

Appendix 5: Proposal Guidelines for Community Grants

Mountain Voices and Community Actions: Local Initiatives in Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihoods in Central Asia

Application Guidelines for a Grant

The Christensen Fund has provided the Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) with a grant to support participatory, community-driven initiatives aimed at fostering the stewardship of biological diversity along with the development of sustainable livelihoods targeting communities in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan.

Amount & Eligibility: A grant up to \$3,000 is available this year with two or three more grants available next year. We will award grants to organizations that best meet SLC's planning criteria (Terms of Engagement) as outlined below (Page 2), and which clearly state their proposed activities, budget, anticipated results and monitoring procedures. The successful recipient organization will be required to submit a report describing the activities undertaken and accomplishments, along with a financial accounting by _____.

If your organization is interested, please submit the following information to SLC or through the designated contact local contact at MSDSP.

(1) Background Information on Organization

Name and Address of Organization:

Organization's purpose, goals and primary objectives:

Legal status of organization:

Responsible contact person and their position:

Brief summary of past activities of organization:

(2) Project Description

Summary: 1-3 paragraph summary of the issue or focus being addressed under this grant, along with who the primary beneficiaries or stakeholders are.

Objectives: List the main objectives of the proposed project – what will be your main achievements in terms of conservation of biological diversity, improving local livelihoods and benefits for local organizations.

Proposed Activities: Briefly describe what activities your organization proposing to undertake in addressing the above objectives.

Anticipated Results: List the results you are expecting, and how you expect these to improve conditions for people, the environment, rare species like snow leopards and biodiversity in general.

Budget: provide a line-item budget of proposed expenses (note that we are required to closely track how funds are expended and accounted for). Indicate the co-financing or in-kind support your organization is contributing in support of project activities. The funds will not support the purchase of land, buildings or similar items.

Transferring of Funds: Please specify how the funds can be transferred to your organization. If your organization does not have a bank account that can accept foreign exchange then indicate how the funds can reach you through a reliable organization (e.g. SUDVO) and the extent of any additional charges that might result from this.

Scheduling: Provide a timetable for your activities and for submitting progress and/or a final report to SLC. The recipient will be given guidelines for reporting, but where possible, this should include photographs illustrating the project area and activities being undertaken.

Measures of Success: Describe what indicators you propose to use for measuring success of your activities in meeting the objectives. Who will be conducting the monitoring and evaluation? If your organization lacks sufficient skills, who can help you to monitor your work? (you may want to contact your SUDVO, MSDSP or other similar organizations)

Terms of Engagement

SLC's support will depend upon the project meeting the following planning and implementation criteria:

- ◆ **Cultural and Environmental Conservation** – Must support projects or activities that improve local people's livelihood and household income without degrading, harming or adversely affecting biodiversity, including the endangered snow leopard, its prey and habitat. The project should directly link its development activities with specific conservation measures, and which result in beneficial outcomes to both components.
- ◆ **Reciprocity** - Each stakeholder (whether villager, village organization, national NGO, or government) must make a reciprocal or matching (co-financing) contribution, within their means, in support of the agreed-to project actions or activities. This may be in the form of cash or in-kind services like materials and labor, which can be valued using existing market rates and prices. Ideally we are looking for at least 20% match;
- ◆ **Participation** - There must be strong commitment to active and equitable participation from each involved stakeholder group throughout the life of the project (from planning to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation and reporting). In addition, project supported activities should benefit as many households as possible, and especially those who are more vulnerable);
- ◆ **Responsibility** - The beneficiary community must be willing to assume all or a significant responsibility for repairing and maintaining any infrastructural improvements (e.g. predator-proofed livestock pen) that may be provided partially or in full by the project; and
- ◆ **Monitoring** - Stakeholders should be willing to employ their own simple but realistic indicators for measuring project performance and impact, according to a Community Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

These measures are intended to ensure that projects are designed to be as environmentally sound, economically sustainable and socially (culturally) responsible as possible.

Appendix 6: Khijez (GieseV) Community Grant Proposal



SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVANCY

18030 Comstock Avenue
Sonoma, CA 95476
Phone 707.935.3851; Fax 707.933.9816
www.SnowLeopardConservancy.org

Promoting community-based stewardship of the endangered snow leopard, its prey and habitat

Annex 1

January 26, 2007

Sub-Project Agreement – Conservation and Ecotourism in GeiseV Village

This Sub-Project Agreement is between GeiseV Village Organization (VO), resident at [GeiseV, Rushan District, GBAO), Rushan SUDVO resident at [Rushan Village, Rushan District, GBAO) both in Tajikistan and The Snow Leopard Conservancy, Sonoma, USA, hereafter abbreviated as SLC. This agreement is valid upon the signature of all parties.

Scope of Work: SLC is contracting GeiseV VO to carry out the activities contained in the attached Grant application, with the assistance of Rushan SUDVO in support of the project titled, **Mountain Voices and Community Actions: Local Initiatives in Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihoods in Central Asia**. This project is being implemented by SLC / Cat Action Treasury under a 18-month grant being provided by The Christensen Fund.

For the purposes of this agreement, Rushan SUDVO agrees to provide the following services at no cost:

1. Receive an amount of approximately \$3000 from MSDSP (the exact amount is not given since some amount will likely be deducted on transferring from MSDSP).
2. Transfer 80% of the amount received to GeiseV VO by February 15, 2008. The remaining amount will be transferred to the GeiseV VO within 5 days of receiving the final report (due by November 30 2008)
3. Receive two reports, the first by July 31 and the second by November 30. Both shall be handed over to MSDSP with one week of receipt.
4. Assist GeiseV VO in maintaining financial records of expenses and income related to the sub-project, and preparing a financial statement on completion which should be included in the final report.
5. Any other duties as agreed with MSDSP and SLC.

Deliverables:

GeiseV VO agrees to provide two reports as noted in the grant application, the second one containing a financial statement of expenses and income to Rushan SUDVO.

Duration: The agreement will commence on the date of signing by both parties and end on December 31 2008.

Other Obligations and Benefits: All work under this agreement shall be carried out by Geisev VO and Rushan SUDVO as Non-Profit Organizations (NGO) or a locally registered social organization. All tax obligations, employment or retirement remuneration, health or liability insurance, or any other fees and payments due under the laws of Tajikistan are the sole responsibility of Geisev VO and Rushan VO.

Geisev VO and Rushan SUDVO and its agents hereby indemnify and hold SLC harmless against any and all claims, demands, and/or judgments of any nature brought against SLC that may arise out of this assignment or under this Agreement.

Termination Notice: The Snow Leopard Conservancy may terminate the contract at any time based on the occurrence of the following: Fraudulent or criminal conduct; Failure to adequately perform agreed upon responsibilities; or Breach of any provision of this agreement.

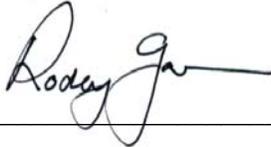
Terms under this agreement are hereby agreed to by the following parties:

Rushan SUDVO Representative: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name of Representative _____
Rushan SUDVO, Rushan Village, Rushan District, GBAO

Geisev VO Representative : _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name of Representative _____
Geisev VO, Rushan District, GBAO

Snow Leopard Conservancy:  _____ **Date:** 26 January 2008

Rodney Jackson, Director,
18030 Comstock Ave, Sonoma, CA 95476, USA
– The Snow Leopard Conservancy is a Project of Cat Action Treasury -

Attachment

Submitted to:
Snow Leopard Conservancy
18030 Comstock Avenue
Sonoma, CA 95476 USA
Phone 707.935.3851; Fax 707.933.9816

Grant Application to the Snow Leopard Conservancy, from Geisev village of the Bartang valley, Rushan district, GBAO, Tajikistan through Rushan SudVo, Rushan district, GBAO, Tajikistan: Sub-project for Conservation and Ecotourism

(1) Background Information on Organization

Name and Address of Organization: Village Organization (VO), Geisev
Organization's purpose, goals and primary objectives: Village sustainable development
Legal status of organization: Not registered. Member of the Rushan SudVo. (the SudVo is a cluster of VOs)
Responsible contact person and their position: Juma Gulshaev for Geisev VO. In Rushan, the president of the SudVo is Khudjamior Nizokatov.

Brief summary of past activities of organization:

The Geisev VO mobilizes the community of Geisev to build sustainable livelihoods. At the moment, the Geisev VO is implementing a community based tourism project under MSDSP support, and is giving loans to Geisev inhabitants (from the VO fund).

The Geisev VO has in the past implemented some infrastructure projects (bridge, river bank strengthening, irrigation channels, etc) under Focus and the UN support, chicken breeding and honey production under MSDSP support, etc.

(2) Project Description

Summary: 1-3 paragraph summary of the issue or focus being addressed under this grant, along with who the primary beneficiaries or stakeholders are.

Summary

The project aims at improving Geisev inhabitants' knowledge about (i) and mobilize them to protect (ii) the bio-cultural diversity of their village and surrounding areas

This project builds on a training in Khorog organized by SLC on Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action (APPA) for community-based conservation to which the leader of the Geisev village organization participated in August 2007. The proposed project also complements an eco-cultural-community-based tourism project implemented by MSDSP in Geisev.

The primary beneficiaries of the project are the 18 households of Geisev (101 inhabitants), and, to a lesser extent, the tourists who will visit Geisev (estimated at 150-200 in 2008), in addition to the biological species of the village and surrounding environment, which include may include endangered species like the snow leopard and culturally important species like the ibex, as well as medicinal plants and other bio-resources.

Objectives: List the main objectives of the proposed project – what will be your main achievements in terms of conservation of biological diversity, improving local livelihoods and benefits for local organizations.

- Raise awareness about bio cultural diversity in Geisev amongst Geisev inhabitants and tourists
- Mobilize Geisev inhabitants and visitors to protect biodiversity

Proposed Activities: Briefly describe what activities your organization proposing to undertake in addressing the above objectives.

I. participatory inventory/ discovery of bio cultural diversity in Geisev through:

- I.1. photo voice session on “Nature and us” after attending an SLC training in May/June;
- I.2. gathering of legends, songs, information on hunting tradition, on the use of wildlife, plants and trees from elders and knowledgeable inhabitants;
- I.3. create a map of wildlife and biodiversity in Geisev, along with a written description of existing conditions as a basis for assessing future changes; Establish 5-10 baseline sites and take photographs to illustrate existing conditions; then return once a year (or every two years) and take photograph looking in same condition to show any change
- I.4. presentation of the information collected in an exhibition held in Geisev in the summer 2008 (targeting both the Geisev community and tourists). An event will be organized for the opening of the exhibition, where the elders will share their knowledge of traditional hunting practices, whilst schoolchildren will sing the songs about wildlife they have learned during their nature classes (see below).

II. awareness raising about bio cultural diversity in Geisev amongst Geisev community and tourists through:

- II.1. lessons on biodiversity and environment protection at school (1 session per week for 4 months). The topics taught will include: Geisev wildlife and plants (classroom and field discovery) including traditional songs and practices linked to wildlife (especially keystone or endangered species), best practices to protect the environment (waste management and limitation, fuel wood use and energy saving techniques, etc), etc. The local teacher will be responsible to prepare and teach the curriculum, with the support of the head of the VO. He will be supported by some books on wildlife and plants in Russian bought under the proposed project;
- II.2. development of information boards about the most important species of the area, in English and Tajik, targeting both the local community and tourists. These materials will be developed with the support of some outside experts.
- II.3. Two school competitions (drawing and/or theater, singing, etc) on biodiversity will be organized, one in March, and one in May.
- II.4. Organization of one VO meeting on the topics of nature protection and waste management to spread best practices within the community (dispose of waste in selected areas, etc)

III. Mobilize Geisev inhabitants and visitors to:

- III.1. Plant 600 trees. The saplings are available locally (they are growing naturally), and will de-rooted from places where they cannot grow due to the proximity of a big tree to places where deforestation has been going on (close to the road, at the beginning of the valley, where outsiders have cut some trees).
- III.2. Pilot low cost insulation of one demonstration house in Geisev. Technical advice from the GTZ project to fight against desertification will be sought for, as this project has experience in implementing low cost insulation of houses in the Pamirs.
- III.3. Waste management: burn the waste that can be burnt, dig a hole to bury the waste that cannot be burnt and reduce the amount of waste in the village by encouraging visitors to take back their waste with them.
- III.4. Appoint one responsible person that monitors waste management, hunting, tree logging and that reports

and addresses incidents during VO meetings.

III.5. Appoint one specialist to conduct one feasibility study (including an environmental assessment) for the construction of a mini hydel in the village.

Anticipated Results: List the results you are expecting, and how you expect these to improve conditions for people, the environment, rare species like snow leopards and biodiversity in general.

- the village will be more beautiful, which will attract more tourists and more income from community based tourism;
- the number of trees will increase and will be better spread in the village;
- 6 boards on wildlife are built;
- knowledge about snow leopards, ibex, etc will increase among local people and tourists;
- awareness about low cost insulation methods will increase, leading to increased use of such materials;
- the amount of waste will remain stable in spite of an increase in the number of visitors, and waste will be disposed of in designated areas only;
- the feasibility and impact of the construction of a mini hydel will be assessed;

Budget: provide a line-item budget of proposed expenses (note that we are required to closely track how funds are expended and accounted for). Indicate the co-financing or in-kind support your organization is contributing in support of project activities. The funds will not support the purchase of land, buildings or similar items.

Amount requested from SLC	Amount (USD)
Explanatory boards (metal sheets or stones) on wildlife, plants, and best practices for guests	550
Stationary for the discovery phase (flipcharts, markers, etc)	100
Lessons on nature in school	50
School competition on nature (drawing, etc)	150
Printing photos and Board for mounting photos	250
Pilot insulation of one home (specialist from GTZ, glass for double windows and thermometer for monitoring)	250
Study for mini hydel feasibility	250
Book in Russian and English on wildlife	300
Labor for looking after the trees (watering)	200
Binocles and camera	400
Transport expenses (for purchase of equipment, meeting partners, etc)	200
Accommodation and food on the way	100
Translation of grant application	40
Bank charges	100
Reserve	100
Total SLC contribution	3040
Village contribution	
Nature guard (8 USD/month for 2 years)	200
Dig Hole for wastes (2m x 2m)	30
Insulation work on the house, labor (3 days, 3 people)	50
Planting of trees (2TJS per tree, 600 trees)	347
Build a wall to protect the trees. 50 m2, 25 TJS/ m2	362
Food (for 10 people for 1 week)	120
Total VO contribution	1109

Transferring of Funds: Please specify how the funds can be transferred to your organization. If your organization does not have a bank account that can accept foreign exchange then indicate how the finds can reach you through a reliable organization (e.g. SUDVO) and the extent of any additional charges that might result from this.

Bank information has been sent and will be included in the contract. Funds will be transferred through MSDSP.

Scheduling: Provide a timetable for your activities and for submitting progress and/or a final report to SLC. The recipient will be given guidelines for reporting, but where possible, this should include photographs illustrating the project area and activities being undertaken.

Activity	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Photo voice										
Gathering of legends,										
Map of biodiversity in Geisev										
Exhibition										
Lessons on biodiversity at school										
Vo meeting on the environment										
Information boards finalized										
School competition										
Planting trees										
Insulation of house										
Feasibility study for mini hydel										
Hole for waste										
Nature guard										
Reporting to SLC										

Progress Report: Due July 31, 2008
 Final Report: Due November 30, 2008

Measures of Success: Describe what indicators you propose to use for measuring success of your activities in meeting the objectives. Who will be conducting the monitoring and evaluation? If your organization lacks sufficient skills, who can help you to monitor your work? (you may want to contact your SUDVO, MSDSP or other similar organizations)

- one exhibition (photos of the exhibition)
- fixed photoplots
- school children test
- school competition photos
- photos of the information boards
- minutes of VO meetings
- comments from visitors (SLC would like to get stories describing people’s perception of the project and lessons learned)
- report on tree planting, and photos
- temperature record of the insulated house, photos of the insulation work
- monthly reports of the nature protection guard
- report on the feasibility and impact of a mini hydel construction

The VO leader will conduct the monitoring, with the support of the SudVo and MSDSP.

Appendix 7: Batchor Community Grant Proposal



SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVANCY

18030 Comstock Avenue
Sonoma, CA 95476
Phone 707.935.3851; Fax 707.933.9816
www.SnowLeopardConservancy.org

Promoting community-based stewardship of the endangered snow leopard, its prey and habitat

Annex 1

July 7, 2008

Sub-Project Agreement – Biodiversity Conservation and Ecotourism in Batchor Village

This Sub-Project Agreement is between Batchor Village Organization (VO), resident at Batchor, Shugnan District, GBAO), in Tajikistan and The Snow Leopard Conservancy, Sonoma, USA, hereafter abbreviated as SLC. This agreement is valid upon the signature of all parties.

Scope of Work: SLC is contracting Batchor VO to carry out the activities contained in the attached Grant application, with the assistance of Vanqala SUDVO in support of the project titled, **Mountain Voices and Community Actions: Local Initiatives in Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihoods in Central Asia**. This project is being implemented by SLC / Cat Action Treasury under a 18-month grant being provided by The Christensen Fund.

For the purposes of this agreement, Vanqala SUDVO agrees to provide the following services at no cost:

1. Receive an amount of \$3,300 from SLC (the exact amount may be less depending on bank charges from Tajikistan side)
2. Transfer 80% of the amount received to Batchor VO within 10 days. The remaining amount will be transferred to the Batchor VO within 10 days of receiving the final report (due by February 15, 2009)
3. Receive two reports, the first by Sept 30 2008 and the second (final) by Feb 15, 2009. Batchor will independently submit the same report to SLC via email.
4. Assist Batchor VO in maintaining financial records of expenses and income related to the sub-project, and preparing a financial statement on completion which should be included in the final report.
5. Any other duties as agreed with SLC and/or partner organizations like MSDSP.

Deliverables:

Batchor VO agrees to provide two reports as noted in the grant application, the second one containing a financial statement of expenses and income to Vanqala SUDVO.

Duration: The agreement will commence on the date of signing by both parties and end on Feb 28, 2009.

Other Obligations and Benefits: All work under this agreement shall be carried out by Batchor VO and Vanqala (Lamlon) SUDVO as Non-Profit Organizations (NGO) or a locally registered social organization. All tax obligations, employment or retirement remuneration, health or liability insurance, or any other fees

and payments due under the laws of Tajikistan are the sole responsibility of Batchor VO and Vanqala SUDVO.

Batchor VO and Vanqala SUDVO and its agents hereby indemnify and hold SLC harmless against any and all claims, demands, and/or judgments of any nature brought against SLC that may arise out of this assignment or under this Agreement.

Termination Notice: The Snow Leopard Conservancy may terminate the contract at any time based on the occurrence of the following: Fraudulent or criminal conduct; Failure to adequately perform agreed upon responsibilities; or Breach of any provision of this agreement.

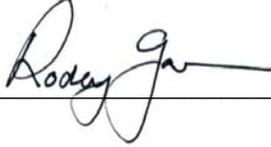
Terms under this agreement are hereby agreed to by the following parties:

Vanqala SUDVO Representative: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name of Representative: Darvoziev Farhod
Vanqala SUDVO, Shugnan District, GBAO

Batchor VO Representative : _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name of Representative: Tawakalsho Khudoberdiev
Batchor VO, Shugnan District, GBAO

Snow Leopard Conservancy:  _____ **Date:** July 12 2008

Rodney Jackson, Director,
18030 Comstock Ave, Sonoma, CA 95476, USA
– The Snow Leopard Conservancy is a Project of Cat Action Treasury -

Attachment dated 12 July, 2008

Submitted to: Snow Leopard Conservancy
18030 Comstock Avenue
Sonoma, CA 95476 USA
Phone 707.935.3851; Fax 707.933.9816

Grant Application to the Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC)
From: Batchor village of the Gund valley, Shugnan district, GBAO, Tajikistan through Vanqala SudVo, Shugnan district, GBAO, Tajikistan
for:
Sub-project for Supporting Biodiversity Conservation and Ecotourism

(1) Background Information on Organization

Name and Address of Organization: Village Organization (VO), Batchor
Organization's purpose, goals and primary objectives: Village sustainable development
Legal status of organization: Not registered. Member of the Vanqala SudVO. (the SudVO is a cluster of VOs)
Responsible contact person and their position: Tawakalsho Khudoberdiev, Batchor VO and Aslisho Qurboniev of Batchor; and the Vanqala SudVO representative Darvosiev Farhod.

Brief summary of past activities of organization:

The Batchor VO mobilizes the community of Batchor to build sustainable livelihoods. Batchor has 34 households and approximately 240 residents. It is located 25 km along a unimproved road from Varshez. In the past, the Batchor VO implemented some infrastructure projects, including a medical centre, bridge, and a goat breeding project under support from MSDSP and a yak breeding under the government. One homestay has been established with the technical support of MSDSP.

No biodiversity projects have been undertaken, although biodiversity in the Batchor area is threatened by factors such as unregulated wood-cutting, poaching (especially by outsiders), lack of tourism controls (or accruing benefits for local people), fishing using dynamite, and livestock overgrazing in some areas.

(2) Project Description

1-3 paragraph summary of the issue or focus being addressed under this grant, along with who the primary beneficiaries or stakeholders are.

Summary: Batchor is located at the edge of the eastern and the western Pamir, and is thus rich in plant and animal biodiversity. Potential tourist assets include the settlement's horses (21), its forested areas, the attractive campsites (3 in all), a sacred site and a 5-8 day circular trek into the nearby mountains. This leads to Zaroskul, bypassing Sarez to Langar Pass and down the Langar River Valley back to Batchor or onto Yeshikul. There are several other routes to the Bartang Valley. Currently there 5 working guides in Batchor, but only one homestay. Tourist visitations are low, but growing steadily.

In providing seed funding, the project seeks to (i) improve the Batchor inhabitants' knowledge about biodiversity (especially snow leopards and ibex); (ii) mobilize them to protect the resources of the village and surrounding area; and (iii) generate revenue from sustainable activities, including nature tourism. It will strengthen existing tourism enterprise activities by establishing a fee campsite, solar shower and options for a circuit trekking route, as well as expanding homestays in collaboration with MSDSP's initiatives in this sector.

This project builds on past training in Khorog in August 2007 organized by SLC on Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action (APPA) for community-based conservation and in which Aslisho Qurboniev participated.

The primary beneficiaries of the project will be the 34 households of Batchor (240 inhabitants), and, to a lesser extent, the tourists visiting Batchor (about 50 in 2007), in addition to the local plants, animals and habitat. These include endangered species like the snow leopard and culturally important species like the ibex, as well as numerous medicinal plants and other bio-cultural resources.

Objectives: List the main objectives of the proposed project – what will be your main achievements in terms of conservation of biological diversity, improving local livelihoods and benefits for local organizations.

- 1) Raise awareness about bio-cultural diversity in Batchor amongst its inhabitants and tourists, especially for ibex and snow leopards;
- 2) Mobilize Batchor residents and visitors to protect biodiversity, especially ibex and snow leopards as keystone species;
- 3) Increase village and household revenues from tourism and sustainable natural resource utilization (e.g. medicinal plants, hot springs, fishing etc).

Proposed Activities: Briefly describe what activities your organization proposing to undertake in addressing the above objectives.

The following activities, outputs, budget and schedule were developed with the full participation of the Batchor people, through a series of meetings, discussions and Discovery exercises. The plan was presented to the community at three formal meetings and endorsed on July 9, 2008.

I. Participatory Resource Inventory/ Discovery of bio cultural diversity in Batchor through:

- (a) The gathering of legends, songs, information on hunting tradition etc. on the use of wildlife, plants and trees from elders and knowledgeable inhabitants;
- (b) Creating a map of local wildlife and biodiversity, along with a written description of existing conditions as a basis for assessing future changes;
- (c) Holding a Village Nature Celebration Day with singing, story-telling, and a painting competition, etc in order to raise awareness for biodiversity conservation and increase peoples' appreciation of the natural assets of the surrounding areas. The village elders will share their knowledge of traditional hunting practices, whilst schoolchildren will sing songs about wildlife which they have learned during their nature classes (see below).

II. Environmental Awareness Raising through:

- (a) Placement of Sign-Boards: The project will erect boards to inform and educate local people and tourists of the area's biodiversity and designation as a "No Hunting Area." These will be placed at suitable locations, such as the main entrance to the valley (Shazud), at the Morzor natural fish pond, the village entrance, and the three valleys that provide important wildlife habitat and livestock grazing (Safedobdara, Andaravgdara and Langardara). These information boards shall consist of durable materials like metal or stone with painted lettering and images, and of good construction (e.g., iron posts) to withstand the natural elements;
- (b) Conducting a school education program (Sept – May): lessons on biodiversity and environment

protection will be conducted (1 session per week for 4 months each year). The topics taught shall include: local wildlife and plants, especially rare species (classroom and field discovery) using traditional songs, stories and practices linked to wildlife (and especially keystone or endangered species like the snow leopard, marmot, ibex, brown bear etc), best practices to protect the environment (pasture management, waste management and limitation, fuel wood use and energy saving techniques), etc. The local teacher will be responsible to prepare and teach the curriculum, with the support of the head of the VO. He will be supported by books on wildlife and plants in Russian bought under the proposed project;

(c) Continuing to collect and document local songs, stories and folklore about wildlife, in order to emphasize people's relationship with nature, their spiritual responsibilities and activities that lead to better nature stewardship;

(d) Preparing simple booklets for use in local school and for selling to local residents and tourists. This could include photographs, drawing and descriptions of common plants and animals, as well as the Red Book species;

(e) Organizing a school competition for drawing and/or theater, or singing to highlight biodiversity;

(f) Competition and prize for best constructed and predator-proof livestock pen

(g) Conducting regular VO meetings to discuss, plan and implement nature protection and income generation activities (see below);

III. Mobilize Batchor inhabitants to undertake the following actions over the next 1-5 years:

Nature Guards and Patrolling

(a) Designate 1-2 persons to serve as Nature Guards for Batchor village. Their responsibilities will be to:

- Regularly patrol the area to reduce and prevent incidents of poaching wildlife along with other illegal activities such as cutting trees in protected forests, fishing with dynamite, or any other prohibited activity on the part of residents, non-residents and tourists;
- Record and summarize wildlife and nature observations, including those made by other villagers, especially those persons looking after livestock in the jailoos (Batchor residents as the “eyes and ears” looking after wildlife);
- Monitor ibex, snow leopard and other wildlife populations on a regular basis. For example, two counts of ibex will be conducted annually (summer shortly after the lambing and in the late autumn or early winter during the rutting period);
- Educate local people on biodiversity conservation and good resource management practices.

(b) Provide the Nature Guards and selected / interested village volunteers with training in wildlife monitoring. This will be provided by Stefan Michel and Akhmet Umetbekov from Khorog, and will include sex/age counts for ibex, with incidental sightings covering other species. The project will purchase two binoculars for the use of the Nature Guards and volunteers. A digital camera will also be purchased.

(c) Conduct periodic patrolling and record wildlife observations. These can be of two general types: (i) the observations of the Nature Guards during their monthly patrols; and (ii) those made by village shepherds working in the pastures. Each pasture shall be given a notebook (with instructions) so that they can record their observations of any wildlife seen. This information could be recorded so that it can be easily entered into a spreadsheet and later plotted on a map. For example, each sighting could be plotted with a X (or other symbol in a different color for each species) for sightings observed during a specified month or season of the year (e.g., summer versus winter). Photocopies of maps could be made and posted at the homestays, school

or village meeting room.

For each sighting, the following information should be recorded: Date, observer's name, location or place name, species seen, number seen, distance from observer, and any other observations of interest.

(d) The Nature Guards and VO shall report all incidents of poaching to the GBAO government and SLC (in an email via Aslisho)

(e) Photo-Monitoring: Establish fixed photo-points for visually documenting changes in forest cover, tree height, pasture condition, etc. using the digital camera. At each baseline site, a photograph will be taken looking in the same direction to capture existing conditions; These would be permanently marked with stakes. The responsible person(s) will return once a year (or every two years) to take another photograph looking in same direction. The two photos will then be compared to detect any visual changes.

Income and Enterprise Development

(a) The VO shall arrange to setup a sub-account, designated as the *Batchor Village Conservation Fund* (VCF) for receiving SLC's grant, and all future camping site, solar shower or hot spring user fees. It is also recommended that 10% of the revenues from homestay and nature guiding income be deposited in this account and used for activities that benefit all residents.

(b) Kawg Hot spring Development: The initial phase will involve improving the access trail to allow for easier passage of horses. The bathing area will be improved by lining it with large stones, and a notice board will be erected describing the Code of Conduct (e.g., remove rubbish, don't pollute water, or remove vegetation etc). Then at a later date, the village will construct a simple shelter, provide bedding and blankets for local visitors, and establish a User Fee. The pond may be lined with cement after sufficient revenues have been generated to cover such costs.

(c) Village-operated Campsite for Tourists: The first step will be to identify and signpost an attractive grassy area for tents. Spring water should be available, or sign posted if located at some distance away. Batchor will construct a dry toilet and a rubbish pit. If necessary, some trees will be planted for summer shade. A tenting fee will be set, and all visitors will be required to camp only in designated places.

(d) Solar Shower for Tourists: With co-financing from MSDSP, a solar shower will be constructed and made available to tourists upon payment of a fee. A responsible person shall be identified and trained in its maintenance.

(e) Nature Guiding & Trekking: Interested villagers will seek training in nature guiding, horse-riding, trekking and related services from MSDSP and PECTA. Ten percent (10%) of future fees will be deposited in the Village Conservation Fund. SLC will recommend to MSDSP that candidates from Batchor be included in their future trainings targeting the tourism sector.

(f) Handicraft for tourists: Some women have received training from GTZ, and have expressed interest in producing handicrafts like socks, traditional Pamiri caps, wall-hangings with snow leopard, ibex or other animal motifs and designs. This is an activity for interested individuals which should be driven by the villagers themselves.

(g) Feasibility study of medical plants collection and sales: Batchor is rich in medicinal plants, as indicated from the map drawn by the settlement's doctor (Paishanbe) in which the locations for 19 different species are shown. However, plant collection will have to comply with government rules and regulations, and profitable markets need to be identified so that both prices and sales volumes can be favorably maintained. In addition,

Batchor VO will consult with GTZ and other technical experts to develop its harvesting plans and sales strategies.

Anticipated Results: List the results you are expecting, and how you expect these to improve conditions for people, the environment, rare species like snow leopards and biodiversity in general.

- √ Increased numbers of ibex, snow leopard and other wildlife after 3-5 years
- √ Reduced people-wildlife conflict (with the increased availability of prey, snow leopards are less likely to kill livestock)
- √ 12 boards on wildlife and no hunting signs installed
- √ Increased knowledge about snow leopards, ibex, etc among local people and tourists;
- √ Increased awareness of biodiversity management and nature conservation in general
- √ Annual counts of ibex available
- √ Nature Celebration Day and school education lessons leads to increased knowledge and awareness of biodiversity and nature conservation
- √ Nature booklet available
- √ Increased pride in local nature because of school and community competitions or exhibitions
- √ Forest and pasture condition monitored annually
- √ Minutes of VO meetings summarizing participatory actions for nature conservation and enterprise development
- √ Increased incomes from Kawg hotspots, camping fees, solar shower fees, trekking and guiding
- √ Increased tourist visitation and satisfaction
- √ SLC provided with stories describing people’s perception of the project and lessons learned
- √ Report / information on the options for medicinal plant collection and sales completed the village will be more beautiful, which will attract more tourists and more income from community based tourism;
- √ Batchor is cleaner and offers a more attractive environment for residents and tourists alike

Budget: provide a line-item budget of proposed expenses (note that we are required to closely track how funds are expended and accounted for). Indicate the co-financing or in-kind support your organization is contributing in support of project activities. The funds will not support the purchase of land, buildings or similar items.

SLC Contribution

Item / Description	US Dollar
Nature sign boards (12 @ \$25)	300
Educational materials (including nature guide books) (fixed sum)	150
Nature booklets (partial support preparation & publication) 50 @ \$4	200
Village Nature Celebration - Environment Day	100
School Teacher support	50
School children’s competition / prizes	50
Prize for best-constructed livestock pen	50
Binoculars (2 @ \$120) & Digital camera (1 @ \$250)	490
Nature Guard support	325
Ibex census training (Akhmet) (partial only)	100
Kawg HotSpring Improvement	400
Village Shower (with MSDSP support)	250

Campsite development (sign, toilet)	100
Medicinal plant assessment	25
General Transportation	200
Food and Accommodation	100
Photo prints and display graphics	150
Report preparation & Translation (Progress, final)	100
Bank charges	60
Reserve	100
Total SLC contribution	3300
	US
VO Contribution	Dollar
Nature guard (\$10/mo x 24 mo x 2 persons)	480
Construction of One Solar Shower	100
Campground & Toilet	200
Kawg trail construction (food, labor, transport for 10)	450
School teacher (16 lessons @\$5)	80
Preparation of Nature Education booklet (Aslisho)	50
Medicinal plant plan	50
Total VO contribution	1410

The total budget is \$4,710, of which the village will contribute 43%.

Transferring of Funds: Please specify how the funds can be transferred to your organization.

The funds will be transferred through the foreign account of the SudVO, Lamlon (see attached account information).

Scheduling: Provide a timetable for your activities and for submitting progress and/or a final report to SLC. The recipient will be given guidelines for reporting, but where possible, this should include photographs illustrating the project area and activities being undertaken.

Activity	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Participatory Inventory	X	X												
Maps of Biodiversity	X													
Village Planning Meetings	X	X		X		X			X			X		
Erect Sign Boards		X	X	X					X					
Recruit & Train Nature Guards	X	X			X									
Wildlife monitoring			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ibex Survey Count						X							X	
Photo- Station Monitoring	X												X	
School Education			X	X	X	X								
School Competition									X					
Best Corral (Pen) Competition					X									
Nature Celebration Day									X					
Prepare Nature Booklet	X	X			X	X								
Village Conservation Fund	X													
Kawg Hotspring Improvement		X									X	X	X	
Village Campsite	X	X									X			
Solar Shower		X								X	X	X		
Handicrafts					X	X	X	X	X					

Homestays & Other Tourism Activities		X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X
Plan for Medicinal Plants					X	X								
Report to Donor			P					F						P

Progress Report (P): Due Sept 30, 2008

Final Report (F): Due Feb 15, 2009

Measures or Indicators for Success: Describe what indicators you propose to use for measuring success of your activities in meeting the objectives. Who will be conducting the monitoring and evaluation? If your organization lacks sufficient skills, who can help you to monitor your work? (you may want to contact your SUDVO, MSDSP or other similar organizations)

- √ Monthly reports of nature protection and Nature Guard activities (“Village Eyes and Ears”)
- √ Number of ibex and wildlife sightings
- √ Nature Celebration Day, number of school education lessons, and awareness from competitions
- √ Publication of nature booklet
- √ Increased pride in local nature from competitions and exhibitions
- √ Forest and pasture condition
- √ Minutes of VO meetings
- √ Incomes from Kawg hot springs, camping fees, solar shower fees, trekking and guiding
- √ Amount of litter (rubbish) present
- √ Number of tourist visitations and satisfaction levels
- √ Stories and records of folklore covering animals and nature topics
- √ Reports & information (with submission to community, donors, and interested parties)

The VO leader and responsible villagers will conduct the monitoring, with the support of the SudVO and MSDSP.

The following persons took part in planning for this grant application:

Qurboniev Aslisho (Interpreter and Facilitator)

Khudoberdiev Tawakalsho (VO Leader)

Qurboniev Sultonsho

Nobowarov Paisanbe

Nobowarov Safarbek

Sulaimonov Mirzo

Imomberdiev Nazarkhudo

Nobowarov Oshurbek

Marodmamadov Sangmamad

Tursunboev Suhrob

Fedenov Olimnazar

Paimoraev Paimora

Marodmamadov Dilowar

Imomyorbekov Boroni

Imomyorbekov Alowar

Imomyorbekov Safarbek

Boroniev Dushanbe

Boroniev Imomyorbek

Ghulomshoev Mirmamad

Nobowarov Shakarin

Nobowarov Toshbek

Izatshoev Izatsho

Qulmamadov Dowutbek

Qulmamadov Pulodbek

Qulmamadov Kholmamad

Miralibekov Khushmamad

Tursunboeva Gulsimo

Amirbekova Sawrimo

Qiyobekova Aslibegim

Khudoberdieva Maisara

Farangisi Sultonsho

Marodmamadova Nasringul

Pahlawonova Dursilton

Imomberdieva Azizmo

Imomyorbekova Bargigul

Marodmamadova Mastona

Bodurbekova Mawgigul

Marodmamadova Bibigul

Soibnazarova Sor

Boronieva Gulbahor

Nobowarova Bejoda

Mirzoshoeva Zahro

Appendix 8-1: Background information on Marco Polo Sheep Trophy Hunting in Tajikistan

Opportunities and Priorities for Conserving Tajikistan's National Treasure – Marco Polo Sheep –

1. Status and Threats to Marco Polo Sheep in Tajikistan:

Status: Marco Polo sheep (also known as argali) range across the rolling mountains and desert basins of Tajikistan, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, with some animals migrating annually across international borders between their summer and winter range (see Schaller, 2003 for some important migration corridors). The Tajikistan Pamir holds the largest population of Marco Polo sheep, and is the core of this species' distribution where it was once abundant and easily observed (Anon 1988, Sapodjnikov 1976, Fedosenko 2000). For example, Saidov and Muminov (2001) claimed as many as 70,000 – 80,000 argali in Tajikistan before the 1960s, although this is considered an over-estimate by some and thus a figure of 20,000 was given for the 1970s period by Fedosenko (2000).

The presence of Soviet troops, the construction of border fences, the economic chaos following the withdrawal of Russia, the ready availability of firearms, and the civil war significantly reduced argali numbers and affected conservation efforts. Current population estimates range between 5,000 to over 12,000 argali, although most observers put the total number from 5,000 to around 8,000. While some partial and extensive censuses have been attempted since the 1990s, available data are considered insufficient and/or outdated to serve as a basis for reaching definitive conclusions regarding the species' present population size, status and distribution. The following survey information is summarized from Schaller's 2003 report, although this author noted he could not evaluate its reliability as few details were made available on each census. Secondly, poaching has continued unabated since these estimates were generated, although there are some signs the downward spiral may be slowing, perhaps as Marco Polo become harder to find or approach with intent to kill.

Individual counts since just before and after independence:

- A helicopter survey of 90-95% of the argali's range in February and March revealed 9,415 animals, for a total estimate of 9,900-10,300 sheep (Luschekina 1994). Other published data, based on a helicopter census in March and car census in June-July that same year gave an estimated total of 8,535 (Kasirov 2001).
- In an area of 2000 km² in southeastern Pamir surveyed in November, 1,137 argali were tallied (Fedosenko and Weinberg 1999)
- During vehicle and foot surveys over much of the eastern Pamir conducted in October and November, a total of 5,700 argali were noted (Fedosenko and Weinberg 2001).
- In 2001-2002 Maimodsho Kadamshoev of the Pamir Biological Institute, Khorog, conducted 13 trips by vehicle to the area south of Karakul Lake and totaled 3,500 argalis. Earlier, 500 argalis were estimated to survive around Karakul Lake for a total local population of 4,000.
- In 2002, the Ministry of Nature Protection made car surveys over 70% of the argali's range during February and counted 5,700 animals. Extrapolated to the total range this would give a figure of around 8,150 (Kokul Kasirov pers.com.).
- There are an estimated 2,000 – 2,500 Marco Polo sheep in the Tajik National Park

- A 2002 count of the Murghab hunting concession, which extends over some 1700 km² in the southeast Pamir, sent seventy local people out to count wild sheep. It reported a figure of 5,552 within this limited area (Atobek Bekmurodi pers.com), which appears to harbor an unusually dense argali population, amount to some 3.3 sheep per square kilometer. The males spend the summer near the glaciers of the Great Pamir mountains of Afghanistan, while females move less far, usually lambing in the mountains to the north of Zorkul Lake.

Threats: Schaller (2003) considered the main immediate threat to Marco Polo sheep to be unregulated hunting and poaching by government officials and the military, along with the rental of firearms to the local population who kill sheep for the meat. This is substantiated by recent field surveys, interviews and anecdotal reports involving a wide range of persons, both of local and outside origin.

For example local people we interviewed invariably reported seeing far fewer argali following the upheavals of the period 1991-1997, and in many areas like the Bulunkul and Yashil Kul (lakes) region, this magnificent wild sheep is now rarely seen. Where herders recall seeing herds of Marco Polo in the dozens, they now encounter groups of 3-10 and even fewer animals. Formerly Marco Polo sheep would roam within easy sight of the *jailoos*, but now one has to walk hours or even days to spot them. This decline in both observability and abundance is a direct outcome of the widespread illegal hunting and poaching which has not only decimated populations, but made the species extremely wary of the presence of humans. Under these pressures, Marco Polo sheep have been driven to the more remote, sparsely populated valleys and mountain ranges.

In fact, argalis are now so shy from being hunted that they invariably immediately flee upon sensing a person, or on hearing or seeing an approaching vehicle. Visibility in their habitat is good, marmots and snowcock alert them with alarm calls, and winds eddy unpredictably. We observed one group of females and young males approaching a pass on their migration and then sensing our presence from nearly 5 km away; they immediately ceased moving, obviously biding their time. As a result, biologists are rarely able to observe animals at leisure, even with a spotting scope, before the argali retreat, frequently crossing across a high ridge into another valley. Consequently, this makes obtaining desired details of herd composition very difficult and frequently impossible. It is in sharp contrast to other situations where wild ungulates like blue sheep have been protected and can be readily approached to within 30-100 meters (such as Hemis National Park, Ladakh, India).

2. Tajikistan's International Trophy Hunting Program:

Tajikistan's hunting program began in 1987. The official hunting season runs from September 15 – December 15, but there are reports of hunters being accepted out of season. Basic licensing fees range from \$22,000 to \$28,000 dollars or more, depending on nationality of hunters and size of the trophy killed. Reportedly, about 40-60 licenses are officially issued annually by the government. However, it is widely rumored that there an unknown number of “unofficial” licenses are also available, especially to foreign hunters who are brought to Murghab district directly from Kyrgyzstan, thus bypassing the capital of Dushanbe. Both the Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Nature Protection can issue licenses, although in effect the latter agency controls the hunting program.

According to Schaller (2003) there are eight companies in Murghab District which cater to Marco Polo sheep and ibex trophy hunters, mostly Americans and some Europeans. Each company has its own concession area, but these do not appear to be well documented or delineated. Further, only three companies appear to attract clients with any consistency – namely “Badakhanshan” with a base of operations within the Pamir National Park at Karakul Lake, “Shorbulak” located south of Rangkul, and “Murghab” which operates in the South Alichur Range near the Afghan border. Recently, one concessionaire's area was summarily withdrawn and handed to a more influential business partnership – evidently a system lacking in the open bidding or

transparent “best offer” contractual process employed so successfully, for example, in trophy-hunting programmes in Africa. Tanzania and Namibia are prime examples of well-run operations.

The fee from each hunt (currently about \$28,000) is distributed as follows: \$10,000 to the overseas agent who booked the client, another \$10,000 to the Tajik government, and the remaining \$8,000 to the local hunting company that arranges all local travel and logistics, field accommodation during the typical 3-8 day hunt, local camp staff, hunting guides etc. A portion of the government fee is not necessarily passed down to the district offices, and neither do local communities receive any financial benefit from hunts which take place in their area. This stands in sharp contrast to the fee arrangement in neighboring Pakistan, where 75% of revenues are passed to local communities for agreed to conservation and development work, as well as wildlife monitoring.

It is internationally accepted that funds derived from trophy hunting programmes should support conservation directly by enabling sustainable and rationale utilization of targeted species (Zoological Society of London 2006). This also includes protection of key habitat and related biodiversity, along with economic benefits and incentives for communities sharing the same area, who might otherwise be tempted to illegally hunt targeted species for subsistence or cash. The Marco Polo sheep hunts in the Pamir do not address these issues, at least thus far. Neither are trophy off-take rates implicitly based on reliable or rigorous population census data (including sex and age class counts, basic to establishing how many individuals can be safely harvested or removed without adversely affecting population fitness, as noted below). Few, if any, companies undertake systematic counts, with or without government supervision, and the Tajik government has to our knowledge yet to establish and implement standardized procedures for conducting Marco Polo population monitoring and evaluation.

Other concerns over the way that Tajikistan’s trophy-hunting program is currently being conducted include:

- Local officials are rarely properly informed on how many licenses are or will be issued each year within their area of jurisdiction, nor for which concession or which clients these represent.
- There are persistent rumors that Marco Polo sheep are being hunted out of the official season.
- There is a notable lack of transparency on how revenues from collected fees are subsequently allocated or utilized. This concern has been raised in local newspapers (e.g., Dabiri 2003). Several officials in Murghab District, where nearly all of the trophy hunting occurs, said that the district government seldom receives money from these Marco Polo sheep hunts.
- The Pamir National Park, a notably large area, lacks basic infrastructure even although Marco Polo hunts within its boundaries must have generated considerable funding to date. Park staff note that status surveys are rarely undertaken for lack of funding, vehicles or field equipment.
- Currently only two companies (Badakshan and Murghab) mount anti-poaching patrols or draw upon local residents to help protect the Marco Polo sheep population.
- Local people from the Eastern Pamir complain that they have received little or no money from official hunts conducted within their “territory,” except for a few individuals briefly employed as cooks, guides or other staff by some hunting companies for the short hunting season. Thus, it is hardly surprising that so many local residents resent being prevented from hunting without compensation, especially when they perceive rich foreigners as hunting freely within the same terrain.

Besides questions of transparency and revenue sharing, there are important matters relating to the scientific basis upon which hunting permits are presently allocated:

- Little or no research has been undertaken to determine the number of trophy-sized males occurring within each hunting concession nor how many of those individuals could be sustainably shot each year without adversely affecting the population’s overall fitness or related genetic viability. Harvest rates

seem to be set by the hunting operators, rather than by impartial organizations based upon sound population sex and age distribution data.

Schaller (2003), in citing Atobek Bekmurodi of the Murghab hunting concession, noted that a trophy-sized male should have a horn length, as measured along the outer curve, of at least 145 cm and be aged at least 6-7 years or older. To reach such size, that individual must have:

- 1) Access to ample nutritious forage, required for producing long annual growth segments (i.e. it must have fed on good quality summer and winter pastures through its life);
- 2) Survived predators or the effects of periodic, harsh winters to have reach an advanced age; and
- 3) Avoided breakage of horn tips during fights with other males during the annual ruts, which occur from late October through December.

Wild argali sheep seldom live longer than 10-11 years, an age at which their teeth are already heavily worn. The world record is 191 cm, but from published records of trophy kills made by foreign hunters it is clear that males are often shot with horns smaller than the stated minimum trophy-size of 145 cm. According to Fedosenko (2000), of 39 animals shot in Tajikistan between 1993 and 1996, the average horn length was only 132 cm (range: 105-156 cm). In Afghanistan, of 94 argalis shot between 1966 and 1974 the average horn length was about 125-135 cm, but some were as short as 89 cm or as long as 162 cm (Petocz 1978). As Schaller (2003) has noted, these figures clearly show that many of the argalis killed in these trophy-hunting programmes fall well below the recommended trophy-size.

- Reliable field techniques are required for categorizing sex and age distribution of the hunted population, and thereby ensuring the allowable harvest falls within proper limits.

Argalis are best counted from late October through December after the first snowfall drives them onto the lower elevation slopes where they tend to gather in large herds, and may be more easily counted from a vehicle. However, behavior this also gives the impression of Marco Polo sheep being more abundant than they actually are. During the rut, from late November through December the males and females herd together, thus allowing the census takers to avoid problems associated with summer counts -- namely, of separate male and female groups ranging at elevations in excess of 4,500 m. It is rarely possible to reliably identify and separate adult females, yearling females, or yearling males at distances of one km (or more). But by the age of two years the horns of males are large enough to be distinctive from the shorter horns of adult females. There are usually more females than males in the population, although such information on sex ratios is lacking for most hunting concessions.

Trophy hunting has been criticized for depleting wildlife populations. The supply of large males can be reduced and eliminated unless the number killed is strictly controlled, with accurate data being made available concerning the sustainability of shooting males of a certain size. Large males are essential to a wild sheep population for they do most of the breeding during the rut, a vital consideration to proper management (see Schaller 1977, Petocz et al. 1978). Furthermore, the number of females that a male can inseminate during the brief rut becomes limited, and if too few males are present it may reduce the number of young born (Ginsberg and Milner-Gulland 1994). The percent of potential trophy males in the herd obviously varies with location, and thus must be studied and monitored for proper management to meet the ultimate goal of passing on those qualities most closely associated with the robust, fit and well adapted male Marco Polo sheep.

3. Recommendations and Conclusions:

If properly managed, Tajikistan's trophy hunting should not harm the argali population provided it is sufficiently large for the harvesting rate imposed upon it, and provided new techniques, standards and operational procedures are imbedded within the program. To this end, we urge the following actions by the

government, local districts and people whose livelihoods depends upon the same habitat and resources utilized by Tajikistan's infamous Marco Polo sheep:

- 1) First, several comments. Most will agree that it is a very sad state of affairs to find Marco Polo meat selling for almost half the price of mutton, being freely available on menus at restaurants across much of GBAO, especially during the winter. What can be said about Tajikistan's Border Guards, who use their automatic weapons to slaughter Marco Polo, in part because they are poorly paid and ill-provisioned to meet their duty guarding the country's borders under unusually harsh environmental conditions? And what of those government officials in responsible positions who loan out modern weapons to procure free meat for themselves or their friends? In light of these actions, how can one realistically expect the general public to adhere to the country's laws and not to illegally hunt Marco Polo sheep?

Thus, the most fundamental problem for Tajikistan's Marco Polo sheep remains uncontrolled hunting of both females and male argali (and ibex) by local people, border guards, public security, the police, and others. The government should thus act immediately, by any and all means within its power to stop such illegal hunting and poaching of an invaluable national treasure and resource;

- 2) Barriers to migration resulting from the presence of border fences or intensified road-based poaching likely present significant threats to this species which migrates up to a 100 km or more between its summer and winter ranges, often crossing international borders during the process. Clearly, more research is urgently needed to identify and then protect or otherwise mitigate critical migration corridors from such disturbances;
- 3) The lack of transparency and open debate among public agencies and their responsible officials, among politicians, private hunting companies and the general public serves to tarnish a trophy-hunting program that could serve as a regional model for sustainability and responsible resource management;
- 4) The lack of substantive revenue sharing with local communities who reside alongside Marco Polo sheep provides them with a palpable conservation disincentive, in effect moving people to hunt "while there are still enough Marco Polo around to kill;"
- 5) Alternative fee structures and harvest off-takes: It may be possible to increase trophy hunting fees under select circumstances without undermining revenue generation and in fact increasing the funding base for supporting vital research, resource management and conservation initiatives. For example, several Marco Polo permits for "notably large trophy-sized males" could likely be auctioned for at least \$80,000 to over \$200,000 each, as has been proposed by Dr. Steven Berwick for the European Union's proposed Tajik National Park project. But these animals should be harvested outside of the Tajik National Park within its buffer zone (rather than the current practice of killing argali in this important protected area);
- 6) Appropriate harvest limits must be based upon regular monitoring of sheep populations and their dynamics using scientifically defensible census – sex and aging methods. Indeed, irrespective of the country, all hunting programmes require strong scientific involvement, ongoing monitoring, tight controls, insightful supervision and open debate about potential problems and opportunities. So far these important items have not been addressed in Tajikistan. A portion of revenues from licensing fees should be routinely used to establish and then support ongoing population monitoring and habitat improvement measures for argali and the other wildlife such as snow leopards that share the same Pamiri ecosystem;
- 7) Professional management standards for hunting concessions are another central item for attention. The Murghab hunting concession operated by Atobek Bekmurodi actively patrols its concession area by drawing upon the support of local people, representing a rare though likely effective initiative for Murghab district. In this way trophy hunting can better benefit wildlife populations — but in the long-term only if local people also see the advantage of cooperating in such protective efforts. For

this reason it is imperative that some of the profits from hunts be shared with local communities as soon as possible, while making clear the linkage between such benefit and the local responsibility for argali and general biodiversity conservation. Hunting concessions should preferentially employ local people, support community-based tourism (especially wildlife viewing), and help herders produce winter forage or move their livestock between designated seasonal pastures (for further consideration, see the IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group document titled, “Recreational Hunting: Standards and Certification”);

- 8) Valuable lessons can be learned from argali and ibex trophy hunting programs in other countries, such as Mongolia or Pakistan (Jackson 2004). In this regard, we highly recommend a study tour for relevant officials and hunting concession directors to Pakistan to see how its community-based trophy hunting programs, implemented by government, IUCN and WWF-Pakistan have brought about fundamental changes in local people’s attitudes, leading to a strong resurgence in ibex and markhor numbers;
- 9) A review of Tajikistan’s laws and regulations affecting wildlife, especially internationally list species like Marco Polo and snow leopard, should be undertaken to determine any important gaps in the legal framework for keystone species and biodiversity conservation;
- 10) The establishment of transfrontier or transboundary parks and/or reserves between Tajikistan, Afghanistan, China and Pakistan, as first proposed by Dr. Schaller and WCS, could provide a valuable step toward regional protection and management of Marco Polo sheep, provided suitable arrangements are made for sharing revenues and employment opportunities with local communities and businesses, including hunting concessionaires, tour operators, guest-house or lodge-operators, etc. The network of parks should be zoned to allow for a mix of activities, from strict protection and scientific use to environmentally-friendly income generation;
- 11) Finally, we urge that a roundtable forum be convened in Dushanbe with suitable partner organizations in which the above and other important issues can be debated between the relevant stakeholders and interested parties, important gaps identified, rationale conclusions drawn, and suitable remedial actions devised for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Arguably Tajikistan’s most famous resident, the Marco Polo sheep is known throughout the world for its majesty and beauty -- a mysterious inhabitant of remote uplands whose long graceful horns intrigued Marco Polo over 700 years ago. Even today it draws widespread attention to the Pamir’s biological treasures, serving as a flagship species for the conservation and long-term health of this unique mountain ecosystem, upon which all inhabitants, including the people, depend. As a strong symbol of the Pamir, the Marco Polo sheep deserves all our vision, knowledge, and dedication to ensure it a lasting future in Tajikistan and the immediate region where its population migrates each summer. But, unless concerted action is taken soon, we could face a situation where more horns litter the Pamir landscape than living animals roam its vast mountain slopes and desert basins –victims to a non-caring human community and government driven by greed rather than ecological awareness and responsibility for one of the planet’s outstanding species and ecosystems.

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Document prepared by: Dr. Rodney Jackson, Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC)
10 September 2007.

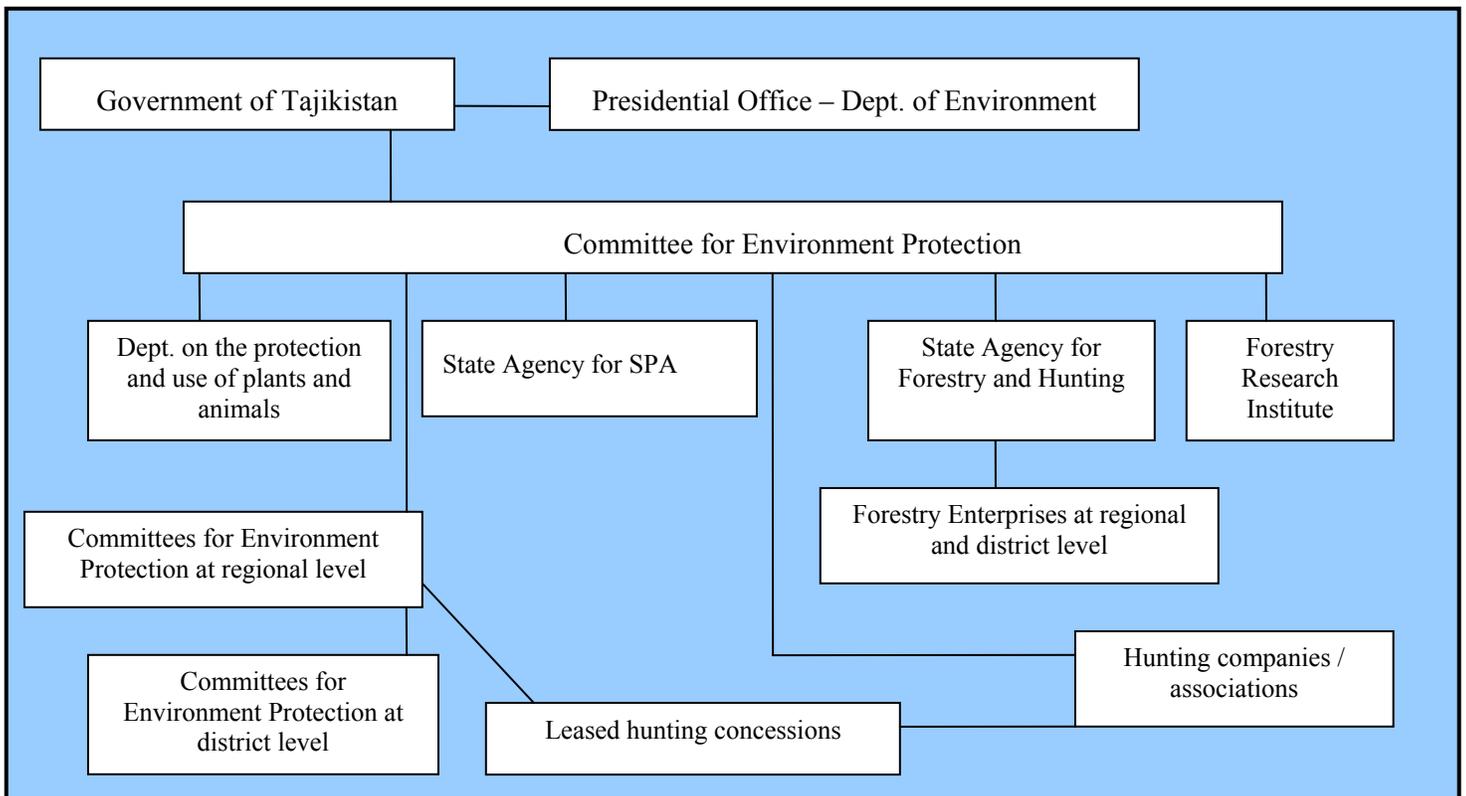
Note: Preparation of this material draws heavily upon Dr. Schaller's 2003 report that offered updated information on Marco Polo sheep status and conservation, as well as personal observations made during several field visits by Jackson to the Pamir, and from interviews with knowledgeable individuals representing diverse background and professions.

Appendix 8-2: Government Agencies and Laws relating to Trophy Hunting in Tajikistan

The following government agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan are involved in some aspect of the protection and utilization of Marco Polo sheep (and other species) subject to trophy hunting:

- Government of Tajikistan
- Presidential office - Department on Environment and Exceptional Situations
- Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan
 - i. Department on the protection and use of plants and animals (4 staff members)
 - ii. State Forestry and Hunting Agency
 - Administrative unit for on hunting and conservation areas with the State Agency
- State forestry enterprises, state forestry and hunting enterprises, protected areas (temporary or special), and nurseries
- State Agency for Specially Protected Areas (strictly protected areas, Tajik National Park, natural parks, nurseries)
- Research Forestry Institute (responsible for research programs related to protection and rational use of fauna, development of national laws, resolutions, by-laws, recommendations, designing specialized nurseries, specific projects, etc)
- Committees for Environment Protection at regional and district levels
- Hunting and fishing societies (who own some 6 registered hunting farms)
- Hunting concessions (concessionaires / hunting organizations)

Organogram of the Government Agencies Managing the Trophy Hunting Program



The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan regulates trends and directions of hunting, approves regulatory legislation, procedure of limits and costs of use of animals.

Committee of Environment Protection - Permission for opening hunting season, control over hunting and suppression of illegal hunting.

State Forestry and Hunting Agency - Guidance and control over hunting fund. Organization and conducting of hunting. Developing and realization of actions on protection of animals, biotechnical actions, detection of violations of hunting rules and measures on collecting compensation for the damage to fauna. Issues permits for hunting and use of concrete kinds of animals and birds, issues licenses and hunting permits

Harvest limits for wildlife, including Marco Polo sheep are agreed with the Committee for Environment Protection and allocated by the Tajik Government of RT under:

- Order of the Committee for Environment Protection and comparable orders of the State Forestry and Hunting Agencies who are also responsible for setting hunting seasons and processing hunting licenses or permits. According to the Regulation on hunting and hunting farms in the Republic of Tajikistan, hunting season opens on 25 October and closes 25 January.

Guidance and control over hunting with the use of hunting fund is assigned to the special authorized body (State Forestry and Hunting Agency under the Committee for Environmental Protection at the Government of RT). According to the Regulation for State Protection of Forests of the Republic of Tajikistan, protection for forests within in hunting areas of the territory is assigned to staff of the Forests Protection Department (this includes the foresters, huntsman, forest wardens, engineers assigned to the protection and conservation of forests, the forestry wardens, directors of forest enterprises, regional forest enterprises, and the State Forestry and Hunting Agency).

Counts of wild animals and birds, along with other biotechnical measures, is the responsibility of the forest farms, and is undertaken once annually from 25 February to 1 April. The total area of hunting land in the Republic of Tajikistan totals 12.3 million hectares, of which 11,091,000 ha are administered by the State Forestry and Hunting Agency, with 1,242,000 ha being administered by the Society of Hunters and Fishermen of Tajikistan. The hunting areas support 15 species of mammals and 50 species of birds that can be harvest under the law. These include wild boar, bear, wolf, bobcat, fox, jackal, marmot, badger, marten, porcupine, hare, otter, nutria, ular, duck, quail, pheasant, goose, dove, ural, Bukhara deer, Siberian goat, sheep, jeyran. Rare and endangered species, such as Marco Polo sheep, Himalaya bear, ular, a pheasant, jeyran, etc. are listed in the Red Book of Tajikistan.

Kinds and livestock of animals for hunting is defined on the basis of record of animals and birds conducted annually by foresters, forest wardens, hunters on the planned routes, preliminary record of wild animals and birds is done once a year from February to April. Repeated record and reliability of data on presence of animals in this or that area of hunting land are checked by experts of department of protection of forests and hunting at State Forestry and Hunting Agency. The limit of shooting (quota) is allocated by Committee of Environment Protection on the basis record of animals in hunting land by Government of RT.

Protocol is issued against those, who violated hunting rules, which in the procedure established by the law for compensation for damage is transferred to investigatory body. The law does not stipulate the award of foresters, public inspectors for detecting poaching, as it is the part of their duties.

Size of payment for hunting animals is defined by Regulation of the «Government of RT №546 of 2,11,2007, size of payments of foreign citizens is calculated 10 folds (times) by issuing permit or licenses by State Forestry and Hunting Agency.

Laws and Regulations: The protection, conservation, reproduction and use of natural resources are regulated by the following legal-regulatory acts -

The Constitution of Republic Tajikistan, article 13, states that land, its deposits, water, air space, flora and fauna, and other natural resources are a sole property of the state and the state guarantees their effective use in the interests of people. Article 44 of the Constitution of Republic Tajikistan defines «Conservation of nature, historical and cultural monuments – as a duty of everyone».

Legal bases regulating use of fauna and hunting on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan includes: Laws of the Republic of Tajikistan «On nature protection», «On fauna», «On flora», «On licensing of separate kinds of activity», Forestry Code of Republic Tajikistan, Administrative and Criminal Codes of Republic of Tajikistan regarding ecology, the Resolution of the Government of Republic Tajikistan № 172 of 3.04.2007 «On approval of the Regulation on licensing of separate kinds of activity», the Resolution of the Government of Republic of Tajikistan, On approval of Regulation «On hunting and hunting farms on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan» №324 of 16.07.1997 the Resolution of the Government of Republic Tajikistan № 546 of 2.11.2007 «On approval of collection rates for realization of legally significant actions and payment for issuing permission to use natural and other available resources».

On State Control over Protection of Environment and Use of Natural Resources in the Republic of Tajikistan, of 24.01.1994 № 21.

Regulation on State Forests Protection in the Republic of Tajikistan, of 21.09.2001 № 388.

Appendix 8-3: Participants and Agenda of Initial Consultative Workshop on Trophy Hunting

THE PARTICIPANTS OF CONSULTATIVE MEETING Dushanbe, 2008, February 29- March 1

No	Name	Position	Contact Address
Environmental Protection Committee under the Republic of Tajikistan			
1.	Shonazarov Kholiknazar Ashurovich	The Head of Legislative and Control Department	Dushanbe , Prospect Rudaki 44 Tel: 227-92-13; Mobile :907802432
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State Unitary Enterprise of Specially Protected Areas “Tajik National Park” (SUESPA “TNP”)			
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Forestry and Hunting Agency			
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Academy of Science and scientific Institutes			
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Mass Media			
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38.	Pirov Rakhmatullo	“1th Channel” Republic of Tajikistan	Dushanbe
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42.	Kurbonov Sharif	CARE Tajikistan	Dushanbe
43.	Nafisa Pisaredjeva	British Institute “Institute of War and Peace Reporting” IWPR	Director: Saidat Asanova 137 Prospect Rudaki “Tojikmatlubot” building 6 th floor, 734003 Dushanbe Tel/Fax: 992 372 24 70 51; Tel: 992 372 24 20 76 Email: impr.tajikistan@gmail.com
44.	Sharipov Bakhriddin	Interpreter	Dushanbe Tel: 907 71 80 13

Program Agenda

«Priority issues and key actions for Trophy Hunting Programs. Opportunities and strategies for wild animals preservation that are profitable for both local communities and environment»

Dushanbe, Hotel «Kayon»,
February 29 – March 01, 2008

February 29

09.00 – 09.30

Participants' registration

09.30 – 10.00

Opening. Facilitated by Firuza Abdurakhimova, the Director
NGO «Nature Protection Team», Dushanbe

Welcome speeches:

Karimov Abduvokhid Yokubovich Deputy Minister of Agriculture and nature
Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan
Rodney Jackson NGO Director «Conservation of snow leopards» USA

10.00 – 11.00

Plenary session

Rodney Jackson NGO Director «Conservation of snow leopards» USA
*Community approaches on biodiversity conservation – practices of different
countries on Snow Leopard Conservation*

Safarov Nematullo Makhmadulloevich, the Head of Biodiversity and Biosecurity
National Center of the Republic of Tajikistan.
State Policy on Biodiversity Conservation and trophy animals in particular.

Ustyan Ivan Petrovich, the Head of the Preserves and National Parks Department
under the State Agency “Tajik National Park”.
*The role of National Parks in wild flora and fauna Conservation by the example
of “Tajik National Park”*

Questions and Discussion

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee-break

11.30 – 12.30

Saidov Abdusattor Samadovich the Head of Zoology and Parasitology
Institute under the academy of Science
*Situation with the population and ungulates protection issues (Artiodactula) in
Tajikistan.*

Questions and Discussion

12.30 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 15.30

Plenary session

Muzaffar Begmatov. Tourism manger in the Tourism and Youth Committee under
the government of the Republic of Tajikistan
Cooperation of traveling agencies with State organizations, Local Communities and Civil Society.

Rustan Muratov. The Director of Nature Management and Forestry Institute.
Economic profit in preserving wild trophy animals.

Questions and Discussion

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.20

Plenary session

Bobokalonov Ibrogim. The head of state Control Special Inspection for flora and fauna preservation.

Legislative foundation: trophy hunting, illegal hunting (poaching). How to involve local population in the protection process of wild animal

Latifi Alikhon. Bonne Convention Coordinator on migratory species of animals.

Modern approaches to use of hunt as an instrument for biodiversity conservation.

Questions and Discussion

17.20 – 17.40

First day workshop conclusion

March 01

09.30 – 10.00

Plenary session . Yesterday's highlights review.

10.30 – 11.30

Existing potential for wild trophy animals preservation, conditions, problems, opportunities, needs, ways of tackling the problems, recommendation, conclusions

Group work starts

- State Organizations
- Traveling Agencies
- Scientific Institutions
- NGO and Local Communities

11.30 – 11.40

Coffee break

11.40 – 12.30

Group work resumes

12.30 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 15.30

Work group presentation

Questions and Discussion

15.30 – 15.40

Coffee break

15.40 – 16.30

Discussing of recommendations and resulting documents of the meeting

16.30- 17.30

Final plenary.

Planning of the next meeting.

Create working group to complete the document.

19.00

Dinner

Appendix 8-4: Recommendations – First Consultative Workshop on Trophy Hunting

Consultative Meeting

“Priorities and key activities on the program of trophy hunting on big mammals, such as the Pamir sheep and Siberian Capricorn. Possibilities and strategies for conservation of wild animals. Income generation for local communities, and environmental benefits”

**Tajikistan, Dushanbe
29 February – 1 March 2008**

RESOLUTION

We, participants of the Consultative Meeting “Priorities and key activities on the program of trophy hunting on big mammals, such as the Pamir sheep and Siberian Capricorn. Possibilities and strategies for conservation of wild animals. Income generation for local communities, and environmental benefits”, 45 representatives of state, international and public ecological organizations, spearheads, the mass media and scientific institutions,

Stressing the importance of implementing new provisions of the National Strategy on Conservation of Biodiversity and the role of local communities in environmental issues, sustainable use and development of ecological systems in mountainous areas of Tajikistan,

Supporting the development of tourism in the Republic of Tajikistan and the development of tourism on the basis of local communities, and the importance of their involvement in the issues of protection of environment, flora and fauna bringing obvious incomes to local population,

Confirming readiness of all stakeholders to make their input in cooperation and resolution of these issues,

Having discussed and exchanged experience on involvement of local communities as partners of the state nature protection organizations and hunting enterprises,

are noting that

- the level of involvement of local communities in decision making at the current stage is not sufficient,
- access to development and implementation of programs remains limited,
- process of development of legal procedures related to the issues of trophy hunting and the use of fauna as objects of hunting are imperfect.

The Consultative Meeting resulted in the discussion of a wide range of issues and problems. Participants made conclusions, developed common approaches on acceleration of activities of interested organizations.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The Republic of Tajikistan is a unique country for tourism, possessing a cultural and historical heritage, original culture, advantageous geopolitical location, diversity of natural landscapes, recreational territories, flora and fauna.
2. Implementation of activities within the framework of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) is the uppermost priority of the government, numerous programs, public organizations and business enterprises, which must make their input in decreasing the problems of poverty and sustainable development of our mountainous republic.
3. Hunting enterprises is one of the branches of the complex wildlife management. The functions of hunting industry are quite diverse: from valuable infrastructural products and satisfaction of amateur hunters to participation in the processes of artificial regulation of the ecological equilibrium in Tajikistan's rich natural systems.
4. It is necessary to establish a dialogue with individuals and institutions responsible for decision making, development of national documents concerning the trophy hunting and wider involvement of local communities in the development, implementation and evaluation of projects, programs, action plans and strategies on the issues of promotion of tourism and the use of Tajikistan's flora and fauna.
5. It is necessary to improve public awareness among local communities and enhance skills of leaders and members of public organizations, spearheads and local executive agencies for a wider involvement in decision making processes on the issues of conservation of trophy animals in mountainous areas of Tajikistan.
6. It is necessary to maintain exchange of information, to support the public dialogue, to promote free and open discussions on the issues of trophy hunting and sustainable use of fauna, protection of the most rare and vanishing species that are subject of hunting in Tajikistan.
7. It is necessary to fully support initiatives of local communities involved in the programs of trophy hunting in tackling local social and ecological problems.
8. All legal entities and individuals, while carrying out hunting activities, must observe requirements of the nature protection legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan regulating this issue.
9. Conservation of rare species, such as the snow leopard, argali and marchurs, depends on the local communities' efforts in countering poaching, and their knowledge on every particular type of animals, the habitat, population, conditions and the increase in the number of population.

10. Communities should express a firm desire to protect such rare species, as well as biodiversity at large, if it is supported by relevant economic and social incentives; they also should be confident that they can receive incomes from nature – if it is rich with plants and animals.
11. Nature protection programs in communities are more efficient if these communities are directly involved in the process of planning and monitoring, where they have the relevant right of access and responsibility for management.
12. NGOs play an important role in monitoring and protection of wild nature, as well as in specialized consultative and technical assistance.
13. The State must ensure the relevant legislation; the government should closely cooperate with hunting companies, local communities and NGOs in order to ensure transparency and fair distribution of incomes, endorsement of relevant procedures of management, and support to monitoring.

Priority issues and recommendations:

- **State policy on conservation of trophy animals in the Republic of Tajikistan:**

It is necessary to:

- develop legal and normative documents on protection of trophy animals in the Republic of Tajikistan, and bylaws regulating activities by organizations involved in trophy hunting;
- improvement of legal acts by means of outreach activities and interpretation of legal provisions, orders, decrees, etc.;
- establishment of a separate Fund, which will exist on fees received from trophy hunting; the fees will be spent on nature protection activities and reproduction of populations of wild trophy animals;
- the fees received from hunting should be used for targeted scientific research programs on protection of rare and vanishing species;
- the programs of interaction and cooperation among national, regional and district entities of the nature protection agency and local authorities (khukumats and jamoats), local communities, tourist agencies and business ventures involved in nature protection and breeding of big mammals in mountainous territories.

- **Measures regulating these issues by ministries, the government, majlisi Oli (parliament), etc.:**

It is necessary to:

- develop a law and bylaws on attaching land resources to rural organizations in areas of trophy hunting populated with wild animals;
- targeted distribution of fees received from the use of fauna: 40 percent to rural, 30 percent to provincial, and 30 percent to national nature protection institutions;
- present proposals to the government, Majlisi Oli and the president on feasible distribution of fees received from hunting activities to cover the needs of local communities (50 percent),

- scientific research activities (20 percent), reproduction and protection of big wild mammals, such as argali, Capricorn, etc. (30 percent);
- clear delimitation of authorities among state institutions in order to avoid duplication of activities;
 - budget planning for implementation of programs and projects on poverty reduction for communities residing on the territories populated by trophy animals, where trophy hunting takes place;
 - open a special account for reproduction and support of populations of trophy animals, i.e. for scientific research, regulation and registration, strengthening of the TNP and their capacity building;
 - ensure rational distribution of funds received from international trophy hunters among local communities, scientific institutions and wild nature protection entities;
 - define a unified state body in charge of the issues of hunting;
 - establish the State Hunting Foundation and develop “Common rules of hunting on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan”;
 - develop a unified methodology for the use of trophy animals and the “Program on conservation of wild animals using capacities of local communities”;
 - assistance in the implementation of the interim plan of TNP envisaging the issues of benefits for local communities and environment;
 - ensure development of the “State program on conservation of wild animals”.

- **Legal basis and issues of legal regulations of hunting:**

It is necessary to:

- develop the “Law on international hunting” (or a bylaw, or a legal provision “On international hunting”);
- develop a provision or a law “On international hunting”;
- introduce changes and amendments in the law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On compulsory payment for the use of natural resources”;
- create a sound mechanism regulating the use of the population of wild animals; development of a stable and transparent economic mechanism;
- the laws of the Republic of Tajikistan “On nature protection”, “On fauna”, “On protection and use of flora” should be reconsidered in terms of their implementation; a more precise definitions should be made in these laws in concerning the order of use and reclamation of natural resources and development of ecological tourism;
- to introduce changes and amendments in the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on the endorsement of the Provision “On hunting and the hunting infrastructure on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan”, #324, 16.07.1997;
- refine upon the Provision “On hunting and the hunting infrastructure” including the mechanisms of economic incentives for the population in the conservation of big wild mammals, objects of hunting;
- to develop the concept of natural management on the territory of TNP;
- to improve the Law “On hunting and the hunting infrastructure” and the “Forestry Code” of the Republic of Tajikistan.

- **The role of the Red Book in the conservation of big trophy animals:**

It is necessary to:

- develop a new Provision “On the Red Book of the Republic of Tajikistan”, and to republish the new book;
- create a commission in charge of the red book animals, which are objects of trophy hunting;
- research and registering of wild animals (those registered in the Red Book published in 1986), which are subjects of trophy hunting; development of relevant recommendations on their conservation;

- **Pouching and regulated trophy hunting:**

It is necessary to:

- develop a methodology of incentives for local communities to counter pouching;
- improve the quality of hunting areas using capacities of hunters and chasseurs, applying biotechnical activities targeted towards expansion of hunting areas;
- establish anti-pouching mobile team in order to strengthen activities against pouching;
- involving local communities, to develop “The program on conservation of wild animals, objects of hunting using capacities of local communities”;
- to mobilize funds for nurseries in order to ensure conservation and reproduction of wild animals, objects of hunting;
- to involve local communities in activities on infrastructural adjustments in recreational territories;
- to mobilize alternative resources for local communities (coal, kerosene, diesel, gasoline), which can be purchased from the funds of the State Hunting Foundation;
- to coordinate biotechnical, registry of animals, and anti-pouching activities.

- **Interaction among hunting and tourist entities with state organizations responsible for the issues of hunting and conservation of big mammals in mountainous territories:**

It is necessary to:

- ensure joint actions on registering animals and counter pouching;
- establish penalty sanctions in agreements (contracts);
- annual joint registration of trophy animals by the Academy of Sciences, state and commercial structures;
- development of Provision “On interaction and responsibility for conservation of big mammals, objects of hunting;
- interaction and cooperation in the field of conservation and reproduction of big mammals on mountainous territories;
- coordination among local nature protection bodies, involvement of the state control agencies;
- development of a methodology on provision of bonuses to people revealing violations of the nature protection legislation and terminating pouching;
- strengthening control from the state nature protection bodies in the field of performing commitments by hunting enterprises.

- **Issues of incentives for local population and local communities involved in protection of big mammals in wild nature:**

It is necessary to:

- develop a mechanism for interaction among commercial hunting companies and local population in conservation of wild hoofed animals on a mutually beneficial basis, such as selling of meat from trophy hunting to local communities;
- selling of meat from trophy hunting to local communities at low prices, or free donations to schools and boarding schools, and to lower income households;
- strengthening the state control, involving local communities – creation of the Institute of Public Inspectors, and their financial support by the state mature protection inspection bodies in districts;
- establishment of a Special Fund to support livelihoods of communities on the territories populated by protected animals;
- assistance in the form of provision of wheat flour and coal in winter period;
- development of ecological tourism and public awareness among local communities involved in nature protection activities and ecological tourism (working as guides);
- state agencies and private firms should work in close cooperation with local communities; they should attract their attention and stimulate interest to protection of big animals, and thus, provide them with salary on contract basis;
- creation of a fauna museum for tourists, a small library on the history of animals on the basis of works performed by local residents;
- allocations from special accounts and the state budget for procurement of forage, so that local people could feed their cattle;
- veterinarian assistance and vaccination of cattle (yaks, goats, etc.) covered by allocations from the national budget to mountainous villages and agricultural manufacturers;
- organization of brigades countering poaching;
- creation of enterprises (nurseries) to breed certain types of wild animals with their perspective release to the wild nature;
- support to aboriginal handicrafts (handmade carpets, felt and wool garments, etc.);
- support to dairy and meat products (sheep cheese, yogurt, cottage cheese, sausages, etc.) and assistance in selling;
- annual bonuses to the most active nature protection activists in order to set examples of protection of big wild animals;
- handling over trophies (meat, skins, or whole animals) to local population on the basis of agreements with those who protect wild trophy animals during the periods between hunting seasons;
- involvement of local population in TNP management;
- development of tourist and excursion activities through training of local residents;
- measures on improvement of social and cultural conditions for local population residing in TNP areas;
- participation of the local population in the process of planning, evaluation and implementation of state programs on conservation and protection of wild trophy animals;
- strengthen the roles of local communities for development of programs on ecological tourism through partner projects involving representatives of state structures, local communities and tourist firms;

- strengthen control over nature and natural components, especially flora and fauna, and jointly with key stakeholders develop Management Plans (MP);
 - informing and involvement of local communities and tourist firms in various events and fora organized in the capital, which touch upon the issues of biodiversity in mountainous territories;
 - support to NGOs working on programs of conservation of wild animals, whose activities are oriented to nature protection;
 - provide local population in mountainous territories with fossils, such as natural gas, coal, diesel, gasoline, or with solar batteries;
 - involvement of local communities in monitoring and registration of wild animals; participation in trainings on the issues of attracting local population to the issues of monitoring and registration.
- **Necessity to increase the population of existing big mammals, and identification of key areas, which require essential attention:**

It is necessary to:

- involve local population in all nature protection activities in the area of wild habitat;
- involve local communities in monitoring, control and registration of wild animals;
- program on setting up nurseries and habitat areas;
- identification of the “area of rest”, places of reproduction of big mammals that are objects of hunting; prohibition of hunting in these areas during the time of reproduction, development and growth of young species;
- in each trophy hunting enterprise, to organize an area of rest, and to strengthen control over trophy hunting in areas of reproduction and migration;
- to create buffer zones between farms, where the population would be able to reside not disturbing the main territories of habitat of wild animals and big mammals;
- to carry out inventory of deposits of wild fauna, and help developing tourism and other auxiliary crafts; to carry out inventory of trophy hunting animals;
- conservation of teresken as one of the most valuable forage plants for wild big hoofed animals by means of provision of alternative sources of energy to the population;
- to carry out registration of wild animals on the territories of rural organizations involving rural residents.

- **Possibilities, needs (state organizations, tourist firms, hunting entities, local communities):**

- at the current state, tourist firms have capacities;
- use of existing project capacities with clear plans of actions – both short-term and long-term – bringing benefits to communities through direct and indirect activities (tourism, use of wild nature, cultural resources, etc.), to decrease stress on the habitat of wild hoofed animals;
- lack of specialists on hunting, hunting enterprises and ecology;
- plans of district and regional development will be included in the program of state financing;
- khukumats can include these issues in their plans of development of regions (cost estimates);
- The Nature Protection Committee has the possibility to resolve these issues through management plans (NP), projects and state programs;

- Tourist firms can stimulate local communities through financial support while opening and developing local handicrafts and support to special stores selling their goods and local souvenirs;
- Hunting firms can support mountainous villages providing them with diesel generators, public awareness campaigns, procurement of solar batteries, stoves, coal and firewood.

- **Nature protection activities of state institutions:**

- compilation of a cadastre and a register of habitats of big trophy mammals;
- strengthening of ecological public awareness through publishing of brochures, leaflets, billboards, posters, etc.;
- should be under strict control of state institutions having relevant functions;
- tourist and hunting enterprises should work on the basis of contracts concluded with relevant state institutions;
- the Nature Protection Committee's affiliates can create steering committees in districts involving representatives of local communities;
- jointly with key organizations, to create plans of local management in the areas of habitat of big wild animals that are objects of trophy hunting;
- accelerate activities of the existing ecological resource centers in all areas;
- strengthen control over dissemination of funds received from international hunting by controlling bodies under the government; nature protection and control over wild animals; implementation of nature protection legal provisions; countering poaching; and dissemination of fees from trophy hunting in the state budget;
- accelerate involvement of border guards and law enforcement structures in protection of wild animals (joint raids, round tables, public awareness seminars, ecological actions, etc.);
- organization of anti-poaching mobile teams to strengthen protection of wild hoofed animals in key areas;
- systematic registration of wild hoofed animals; maintenance of cadastre.

- **The role of scientific research institutions, the Academy of Sciences and experts in the sphere of protection of fauna that are objects of hunting**

It is necessary to:

- in order to conduct monitoring of the status of population of wild animals and their habitat, it is necessary to periodically register trophy hunting animals;
- regular registration of trophy animals and scientifically stipulated norms of shooting;
- further steps in the sphere of scientific research on Marco Polo (*Ovis ammon polii*) – area of habitat, assessment of the number of species, the sex and age composition of the population, seasonal migration, assessment of the status of winter pastures, enemies, parasites, diseases, etc.; to conduct public awareness activities among the population on Tajikistan's nature protection legislation;
- to expand the use of the local population's capacities in eradication and countering cases of poaching;
- develop recommendations and scientific justifications on rational use of wild hoofed animals;
- reconsideration of the status of protection of wild hoofed animals according to requirements of MSOP (new categorization of MSOP 2003).

We express our gratitude for support in the Consultative Meeting to:

- The State institutions – Committee on Nature Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, GO “Tajik National Park”;
- International Organizations – NGO “Snow Leopard Trust”, USA;
- Public Organizations – NGO “Nature Protection Team” / UNEPCOM Tajikistan.

We appeal to donor organizations and to the Government *Обращаемся* for assistance in organizing the **National Conference on the Issues of trophy hunting, and the role of local Communities in sustainable use of wild nature** to be held in October 2008. It is expected that the Conference will be attended by international specialists and organizations, state institutions, ministries and committees, tourist agencies, hunting enterprises, representatives of all stakeholders interested in the exchange of experience and development of the national program titled “Hunting and local communities: benefits for environment and local communities”.

1 March 2008

Attachment 1

Project proposals:

It is necessary to develop and implement pilot projects of certain types with support of authoritative international organizations, such as Wild Life Conservation Society, Snow Leopard Conservancy and Snow Leopard Trust, Fauna and Flora International, World Wildlife Foundation, GEF, OSCE, UNDP, etc., involving local specialists and scientists.

The participants have come up with the following project proposals:

1. Implementation of activities on conservation of wild hoofed animals recommended in plans of actions of the interim plan of management TNP developed within the EC TESIS project “Development of national ecological strategies for sustainable development” - to synergize efforts of the previous and forthcoming projects in this sphere.
2. Zoning of the key habitats and migration corridors of wild hoofed animals.
3. A series of workshops on ecological education, on the issues of sustainable use and conservation of fauna.
4. Conduct trainings for local population on monitoring of wild animals.
5. Small grants program for local communities “Local initiatives for conservation of wild flora and fauna”.
6. Consultative meetings and exchange programs on the work with local population within the framework of the program of conservation of wild animals that are objects of hunting.
7. Creation of enterprises and nurseries for reproduction of certain types of wild trophy animals with their further release to wild nature.

Appendix 8-5: Recommendations – Second Consultative Workshop on Trophy Hunting

National Consultative Meeting (Organized by GTZ and NPT)

«Cooperation and improvement of coordination of issues on preservation and managements of big mammals - objects of trophy hunting, joint action planning of all stakeholders»

1-2 October, 2009,
Dushanbe, "Kohi Vahdat"

RESOLUTION

We, participants of the National Consultative meeting «Cooperation and improvement of coordination of issues on preservation and managements of large mammals - objects of trophy hunting, joint action planning of all stakeholders» - 55 representatives of state, international and public organizations, initiative groups, hunting firms, research institutes, travel firms, etc.

Underlining importance of realization of main provisions of National Strategy and Action Plan on preservation and rational use of a biodiversity (2003);

Confirming the readiness to make contribution to cooperation and solution of these issues, exchanged experience on use of available capacity of all stakeholders;

Estimating knowledge of representatives of the hunting firms, initiative groups and local communities, as uniform partners of state nature protection organizations which today substantially contribute to protection of endangered species of animals and their habitat in the territories;

Realising, that received benefit from activity of hunting firms should bring benefit and advantage to users, and should be used for animal protection in their territories, and also by these means support programs of sustainable use of wild animals by local communities,

Indicated urgency and noted timeliness of the raised questions on protection of fauna as objects of hunting and identified the following:

Problems:

- Absence of the state system of organization of hunting;
- Absence of regulation «On the use of species, entered to the Red Book RT»;
- Discrepancy of formulations in existing laws which allows various interpretations in their understanding and application;
- Imperfection and contradictions of laws which impede protection, reproduction and rational use of fauna;
- Imperfect legislative base, absence of the Law of RT «On hunting» and other regulatory-legal documents regulating issue of hunting;
- Poor material and technical base of supervising bodies, dealing with monitoring of f wild animals;
- Highly insufficient financing of nature protection bodies from the state budget and "non transparent" use of ecological fund, including for the needs of regulating hunting;
- Misuse of authorities by state bodies in regulating hunting organizations and farms, lack of working contacts and cooperation mechanisms;
- Absence of regular monitoring and weak technique of recording the number of wild animals;

- Absence of a cadastral assessment of territories in hunting farms;
- Lack of human resources (qualified experts and personnel) in nature protection and fauna state institutions;
- Lack of awareness of state supervising organizations on regulatory legal acts and wrong explanation and use in their activity in the form of the numerous restrictions for activity of the hunting organizations, not proscribed by legislation
- Short term use of rented natural resources does not give confidence in further preservation and fauna management, does not give feeling of ownership, that prevents to enhance the responsibility of nature users for fauna resources;
- Inaction by inspecting organizations in fighting against poaching;
- Reduction of a forage reserve of big mammals (degradation of pastures, overgrazing etc.);
- There is no real help to the local population interested in preservation of wild animals, from state and supervising bodies;
- There is no transparency in conducted procedures on limitation of the use of fauna and definitions of payment for licenses, accurate with scientific justification.

Contradictions in institutional and legislative systems on preservation and management of targeted kinds:

- Regulation «On hunting and hunting farm» (1997) does not comply with the Law of RT «On fauna» (2008);
- Lack of management plans of hunting farms as a whole nationwide and for each farm.
- Red Book of Republic Tajikistan (1988) is not updated and not republished.

Conclusions, recommendations and planned next steps:

- It is necessary to make additions and amendments to Law of RT «On nature protection», Law of RT «On OOIIT», Forestry Code, and also land legislation regarding use of natural resources;
- Consider possibilities of joining Republic Tajikistan to CITES Convention «Convention on international trade in kinds of endangered wild fauna and flora» and its realization;
- Consider conclusion of Memorandum of cooperation on preservation of transboundary populations between the countries of Marko Polo sheep areal (Afghanistan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan) within Bonn Convention on migrating kinds;
- Committee of nature environment at the Government of RT should conduct zoning of territory of the hunting farms and forestry (organization of hunting, forestry) and a cadastral assessment;
- Committee of nature environment at the Government of RT should restore procedure of constantly operating monitoring and accurate objective data on recording animals;
- Development of databases on mountain hoofed animals with use of computer geographical information systems (GIS) and providing access to these data and to information for all stakeholders;
- Committee of nature environment at the Government of RT should draft regulation on «On preparation of management plans for hunting farms»;
- It is necessary to allocate means from ecological fund to support preservation and restoration of number of valuable and rare species of animals in Tajikistan;
- Develop programs and conduct on job trainings with state structures staff, hunting farms and local communities on teamwork (protection of wild animals, monitoring, recording etc.);

- Preparation and edition of new Red Book of RT (2009-2010);
- Create at Committee the Coordination Public Council from representatives of state nature protection organizations, AS RT, JS, hunting farms and hunting organizations with the recommendation vote for deciding on limitations, issuing licenses.
- Support to local population t (coal, gas, a foodstuff, etc.) by state supervising nature protection organizations, as an option to eliminate poaching;
- Settle question of fair distribution of the received financial assets for hunting between state and hunting organizations and develop system of distribution of benefits for protection and development of communities in places of fauna habitat;
- Restore institute of public inspectors on nature protection, and subsequent support from the state bodies and hunting farms is necessary;
- Ensure legal use the resources of fauna, including those who are in Red Book kinds (urial, marhur, argali) within hunting tourism on the fixed fields and on the basis of approved management plans and results of scientific monitoring for public groups and private enterprises
- Support scientific institutes in development of scientific base for studying population of the above-stated kinds and the basic fodder plants and training of experts in this field from young scholars and biology students;
- Extend terms of the user right of the hunting fields for needs of the hunting farms;
- Expand powers of the hunting farms, local communities on protection of the rights of hunting farms, fauna and flora.

We express our gratitude for support in conducting National Consultative meeting to:

- Committee for nature protection at the Government of Republic Tajikistan
- GTZ
- Public organization «Team on nature protection» / UNEPCOM Tajikistan.

We address to the Government of Republic Tajikistan, international donor organizations for supporting realization of the made proposals and recommendations in this direction.

2 October 2009

Appendix 9: List of other outputs generated

- Draft APPA Facilitator’s Guidebook for Community-based Conservation
- Sustainable Hunting Working Group Guidelines (English and Russian)
- Papers presented at trophy-hunting workshop
- List of persons consulted and meetings held (partial)
- Field Reports and Photographs

These and related documents are available upon special request. We propose to post these and other training materials on the web.