



Central Asia 5-year report

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND

2020-2025

CENTRAL ASIA MOUNTAIN REGION



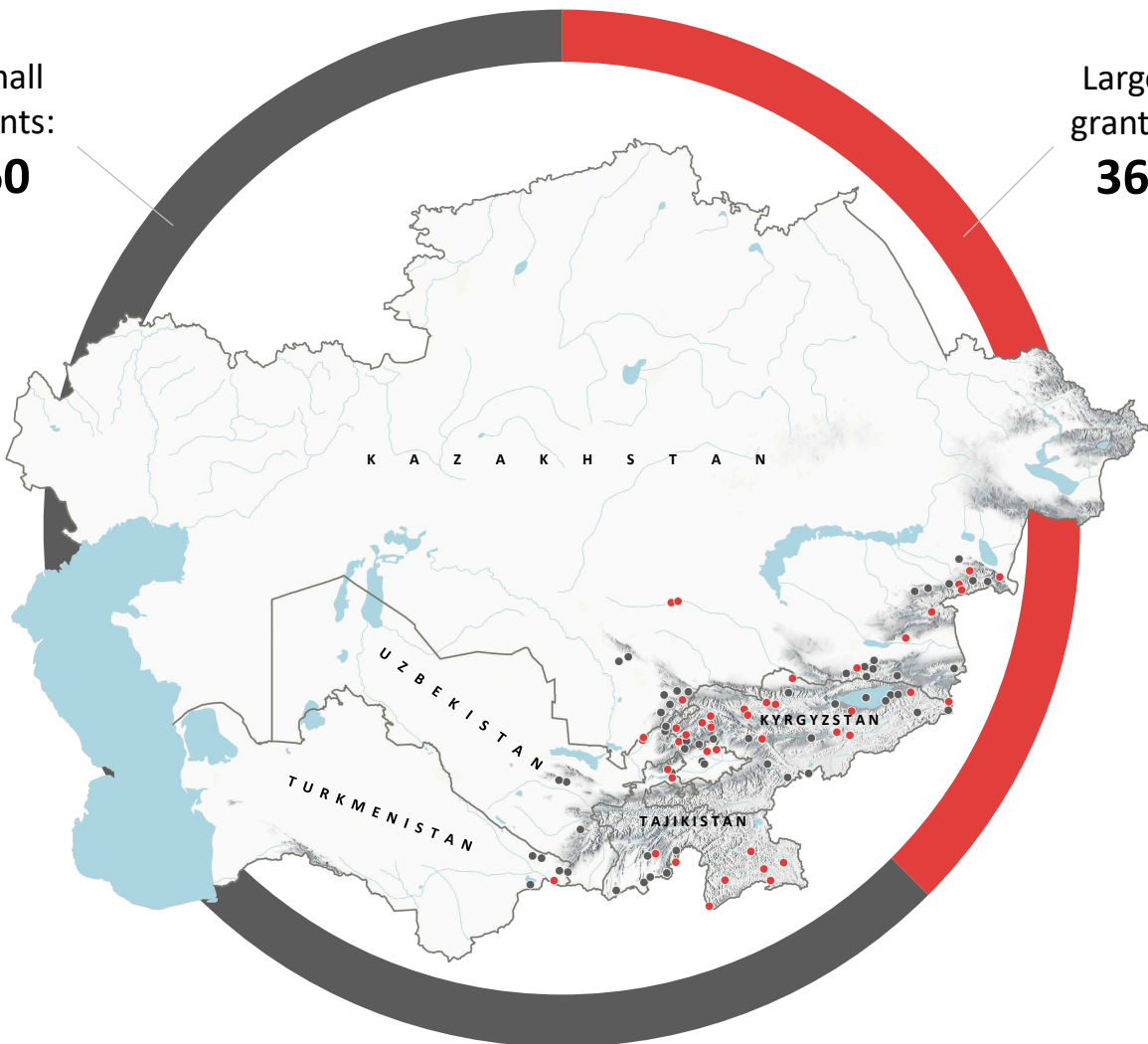
One of the CEPF project areas is the **Central Asian Mountain Region**. It is home to 145 key biodiversity areas out of 1,500 worldwide. About half of the world's snow leopard population lives here, almost 500 bird species, and 5,000 plant species, including those that form unique, natural floodplain fruit and nut and tugai forests. A 5-year program for the conservation of key biodiversity areas is being actively implemented here under the coordination of the WWF Central Asian Program. It will help preserve more than 30 rare species of animals and plants, including **the snow leopard, Bukhara deer, urial**, as well as rare fruit trees, such as **the Sievers apple tree**.



69 organizations

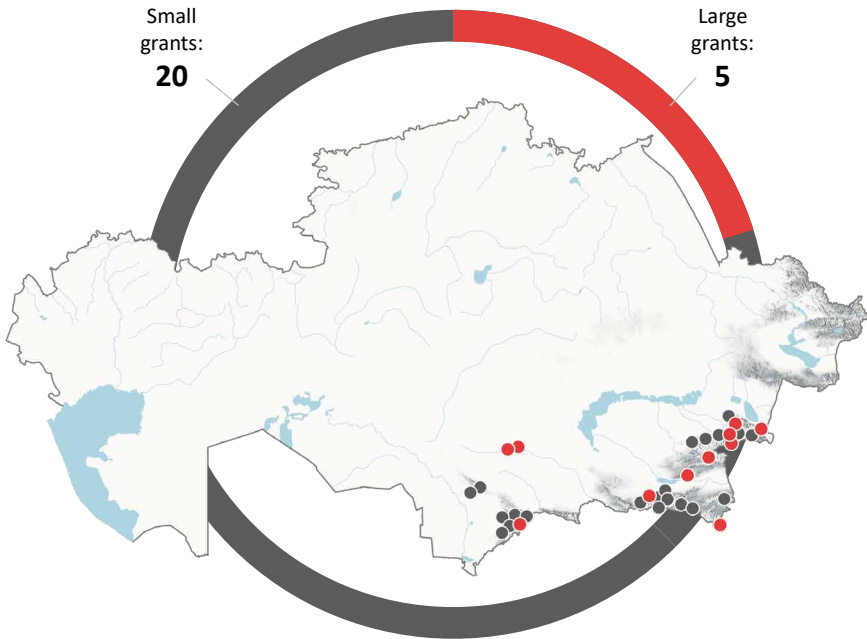
Small grants: **60**

Large grants: **36**



KAZAKHSTAN





17 organizations:

- Wildlife Without Borders
- UGAM
- Khantagy farm
- Earth Island Institute
- Society of Soldiers-Internationalists and Invalids of Tyulkubas Region
- Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan
- Jabagly-Manas
- Zhassyl Azyk
- Kolsay
- Karaganda Regional Environmental Center
- Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan
- Tabigat Republican Association of Hunting Communities and Farms
- Biogen
- ECO Atameken
- Socio-Ecological Fund
- Biodiversity Research and Conservation Center
- Association of Environmental Organizations of Kazakhstan

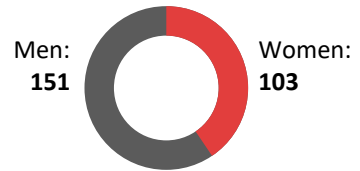
Socio-economic benefits received



Trained



Cash benefits received by



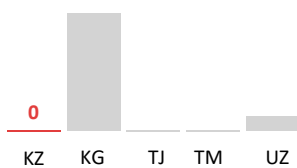
Number of communities

23

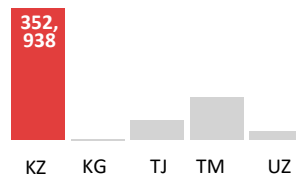
Total money amount



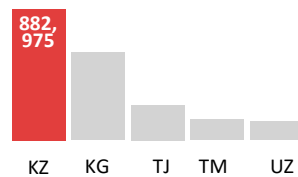
Protected area hectares created or expanded



Production landscape hectares better managed



KBA hectares strengthened



Number of animal species benefited: 6



Number of plant species benefited: 4



Organization name: **Zhabagly-Manas Mountain Club**

Project title: **Increasing public awareness of biodiversity and threats to rare and endangered species in Zhambyl region, Kazakhstan**

Project KBA and Corridors: **KAZ08 Aksu-Zhabagly, Western Tien Shan, Kazakh Karatau Mountains, Upper Talas River Basin, Kyrgyz Mountains**

From 2020 to 2024, the Zhabagly-Manas Mountain Club conducted three consecutive projects focused on outreach and biodiversity awareness. The project team created a "Living Manual": a collection of electronic and paper materials detailing **34 rare and endangered animal and plant species** in the Zhambyl region.

Most of the manual's content—wildlife images and videos—was contributed by children and their school teachers. A total of **283 participants**, including educators and children, were involved in the project. Hired experts provided instruction on wildlife photography and filmmaking, and local and international scientists served as consultants.

The manual is regularly updated with new images, species occurrences, and scientific publications. During the project period, six expeditions were organized to document animal and plant species on the mountain slopes of the Karatau and Kyrgyz ranges. This period was marked by local biodiversity discoveries involving schoolchildren, educators, and the project team. Additionally, **4,032 calendars** featuring wildlife images taken by children and teachers were published.



 **Manual of 34 rare and endangered animal and plant species created**

 **283 participants involved**

 **4 032 calendars created**

Organization name: **Peasant farm "Khantagy"**

Project title: **Biodiversity conservation in the Karatau Nature Reserve and its buffer zone near Khantagy village**

Project KBA and Corridors: **KAZ01 Karatau**

The mountainous pastures around the Karatau Nature Reserve face severe degradation from overgrazing and climate change, and livestock enters the reserve due to a lack of suitable pastures and watering holes. The project team achieved outstanding results in restoring 16,000 hectares of degraded pastures and reducing grazing pressure despite severe drought and freshwater shortages.

To address these issues, the Khantagy team constructed five water storage dams and six watering holes, in total providing fresh water to **over 12,900 domestic animals** including 5,000 horses, 700 cattle, 200 camels, and over 7,000 sheep and goats, as well as to wildlife. New watering holes attracted badgers, wolves, foxes, and Turkestan lynx. The increased productivity of pastures benefited at least **8,000 residents** from three villages, and significantly reduced conflicts between rangers and local communities.

A pasture management plan was developed and adopted to prevent further depletion of pasture lands. Additionally, a **2.5-hectare nursery** was established to cultivate seeds of drought-tolerant grasses, using an innovative planting method called "soil bombs" (seeds mixed with soil), to restore pasture areas where natural regeneration was not feasible.



 **12 900 domestic animals water accessed**

 **8 000 residents involved**

 **2.5 hectare nursery developed**

<p>Organization name:</p> <p>Wildlife Without Borders</p>	<p>Project title:</p> <p>Ensuring the sustainable existence of two globally significant snow leopard populations through the development of a set of environmental measures aimed at maintaining the ecological connectivity of landscapes</p>	<p>Project KBA and Corridors:</p> <p>KAZ21 Altyn-Emel, KAZ15 Assy Plateau, KAZ20 Charyn Park, KAZ16 Kolsai, KAZ17 Toraigr</p>
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The project team implemented three consecutive small grants and achieved significant results in snow leopard conservation. Field studies assessed the status of snow leopard populations in the peripheral and low-mountain spurs of the Northern Tien Shan and Dzungarian Alatau, including territories outside protected areas.

Experts surveyed Altyn-Emel National Park and adjacent territories, as well as Charyn National Park, installing **45 camera traps**. They discovered a stable breeding population of approximately **20 snow leopards** within Altyn-Emel National Park. While snow leopards were not observed in Charyn National Park using camera traps, survey data indicated periodic visits.

Based on field observations, migration route models were created, and the Wildlife Without Borders team developed **recommendations to strengthen snow leopard conservation**, including maintaining connectivity between migration routes.



 <p>45 camera traps installed</p>	 <p>20 snow leopards discovered</p>	 <p>Recommendations to strengthen snow leopard conservation developed</p>
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<p>Organization name:</p> <p>Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK)</p>	<p>Project title:</p> <p>Advancing cooperative biodiversity conservation in Kazakhstan's Dzungaria Ecological Corridor</p>	<p>Project KBA and Corridors:</p> <p>KAZ21 Altyn-Emel, KAZ22 Koku, KAZ23 Zhongar-Alatau</p>
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The project team assessed the current status of the Semirechensk Salamander population with the goal of revising its status on the IUCN Red List. This endangered species, found in the Dzungaria ecological corridor, was studied through four seasonal research trips across 60 localities.

The team examined **33 different bodies of water**, studying the biological features of the salamander, habitat conditions, as well as the impact of anthropogenic activities. They identified threats to the Semirechensk Salamander and developed recommendations for improved water quality, reduced grazing pressure, and better habitat management.

Overall, the management of over **450,000 ha of production landscapes** within the Dzungaria ecological corridor was enhanced.

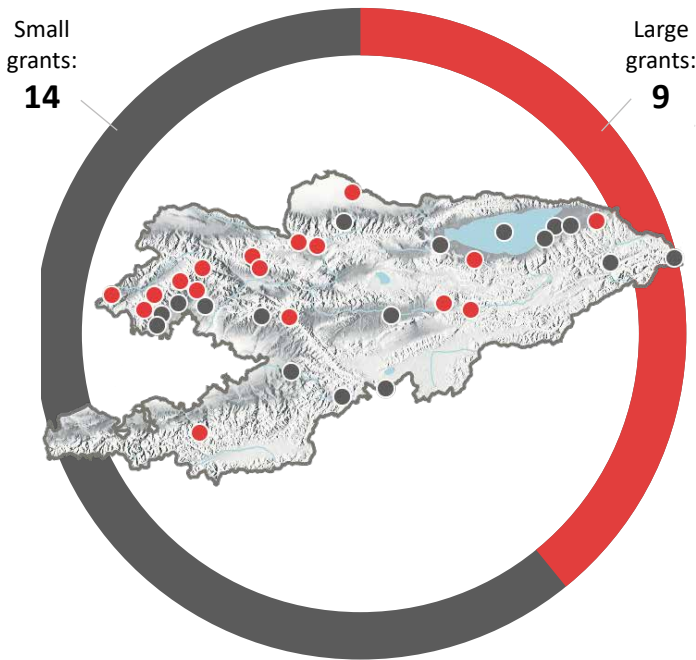
Additionally, approximately 100 households in the project area benefited from sustainable pasture management plans. **The first National Conservation Action Plan** for the Semirechensk Salamander was also developed.



 <p>33 different bodies of water examined</p>	 <p>450 000 ha of production landscapes enhanced</p>	 <p>1st National Conservation Action Plan developed</p>
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KYRGYZSTAN





20 organizations:

- Orchun
- Issyk-Kul Clean
- Nurmuhamed
- Tebigy Kuwwat
- Agzybir Hereket
- University of Central Asia
- Wildlife Conservation Society - Kyrgyz
- Global and Local Information Partnership
- Center for Large Landscape Conservation
- LEADER
- Harmony Plus
- Green Energy
- AKMENA
- Gyzyl Chesme
- PF Union of Photo-journalists
- Rural Development Fund
- Union of Pasture Users of Ak-Dobe Village District
- Nature Preserving Society of Turkmenistan
- Muztor
- Bugu-Enye
- Lesik-Yug
- Obadeskahyzmat
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Fauna & Flora International - HQ
- Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users
- American University of Central Asia

Socio-economic benefits received



Trained



Cash benefits received by



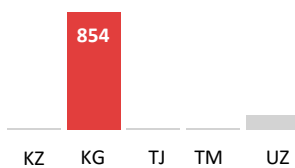
Number of communities

24

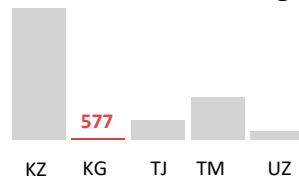
Total money amount



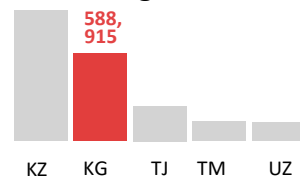
Protected area hectares created or expanded



Production landscape hectares better managed



KBA hectares strengthened



Number of animal species benefited: 9



Number of plant species benefited: 7



Organization name: **Public Association Center for Civil Initiatives "LEADER"**

Project title: **"The Living Floodplain of the Issyk-Kul"**

Project KBA and Corridors: **KGZ31 (Eastern Issyk-Kul Lakeshore), KGZ30 (Sary-Djaz), and KGZ29 (Karkyra)**

The Living Floodplain of the Issyk-Kul project aimed to engage local communities in biodiversity conservation through creating micro-reserves in the Zhuuku River floodplain, Kyrgyzstan. Local communities, including women and youth, played an active role in creating the micro-reserves, participated in planting native trees and shrubs and organizing biodiversity initiatives within these micro-reserves.

Micro-reserves were proposed and developed by Kyrgyz researcher and conservationist Emil Dz. Shukurov. They are small zones within agricultural landscapes designed to create pockets of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration. In order to create micro-reserves within this project, working groups were gathered from residents. The project created 3 micro-reserves: 1.2 ha in Saruu village (KGZ31), 1 ha in Sary Zhaz (KGZ30), and 841 ha in Baizak village, Santash ayil kenesh (KGZ29). Working groups also raised **\$1,734.1** from local administrations (ayil keneshes) to fund the micro-reserves.

Based on this project, LEADER is now implementing a large project titled "Expanding the Concept of Micro-Reserves in Kyrgyzstan and the Central Asia Region" to systematize data and methodologies for scaling micro-reserves in Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. LEADER is now preparing the groundwork for 5 new micro-reserves, which, together with the 3 established earlier, will form the basis of a national micro-reserve network. They are "Salaa-Tash" (10 ha), "Kara-Koyoun" (1 ha), "Kulupbek" (2 ha), "Atayan-Baba" (5 ha), and "Kyzyl-Suu" (3 ha).

In September 2024, LEADER organized an international conference, "Conservation of Central Asian Ecosystems and Sustainable Development: Principles, Challenges, and Prospects," co-hosted by the Biology Institute of the Kyrgyz Republic National Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision.

 **3 micro-reserves created**  **\$ 1 734,1 raised**  **International conference organized**



Organization name: **Public Association "Orchun"**

Project title: **"Conservation and restoration of natural flora and fauna in the Northern spurs of the Pamir-Alai range by engaging local unities of the Kara-Kulzhinsky district"**

Project KBA and Corridors:

The southern slope of the South-West Tien Shan mountain range is home to a fragile mountain ecosystem of nut trees and fruit shrubs, now turned into semidesert due to logging and overgrazing. In 2014, a group of locals formed a special interest group, or "Jamaat", which was registered as the non-governmental organization "Orchun" in 2017.

"Orchun" aims to reduce pressure on pastures, conserve endangered species, restore forests, and prevent pollution of the Tar River and Lake Kulun-Ata. Their work includes spreading awareness, setting up pasture management plans, and planting tree seedlings to stop erosion and landslides. Orchun **rented 110 hectares** of mountain slopes in Kara-Kulzhinsky district for planting native trees and shrubs.

A 30-hectare tree nursery was set up with walnut, almond, prune, apple, and pistachio seeds and seedlings. **3,600 meters of irrigation pipes** were laid to water the seedlings. The nursery has provided seedlings for further restoration of wild nut and fruit forests in the area. Local forestry also transferred 70 hectares of degraded land to Orchun for reforestation.

Local volunteers and environmental activists joined in planting walnut seedlings on the slopes. Orchun also participated in the project of another CEPF grantee, "LEADER," establishing the micro-reserve "Salaa-Tash" and a **4-ha nursery for nut and fruit species** (walnut, almond, apple trees, prunus, pistachio, barberry, apricot).

 **110 hectares rented**  **3600 meters of irrigation pipes laid**  **4 hectares nut and fruit nursery established**



Organization name: **Public Fund "Green Energy"** | Project title: **"Biodiversity restoration on the territory of Sumsar ayil district, Jalal-Abad region of the Kyrgyz Republic."** | Project KBA and Corridors: **KGZ03 Sumsar**

The Sumsar ayil district in the Jalal-Abad region of the Kyrgyz Republic is home to the unique endemic plant species Knorring's hawthorn, now critically endangered with only 40 plants remaining in the wild. Excessive extraction for wood fuel has put it at risk of extinction.

The project's goal was to restore wild Knorring's hawthorn population by developing a method for propagating it using classical seed stratification and stem cuttings. In Shekaftar village, the project team set up an experimental nursery. They collected seeds and cuttings from hawthorn trees growing naturally. Using cuttings from stems, researchers at the Institute of Biology of the Kyrgyz Republic National Academy of Sciences grew seedlings in a lab, which were then transported and planted in the nursery. **Over 2,000 seeds were also planted** in the nursery.

The project involved local district administration, village government, headmen of Sumsar and Shekaftar villages, and the local community. **Workshops were held** with local communities to raise awareness about Knorring's hawthorn, local biodiversity, and conservation efforts.

The project's cultivation experiment using classical stratification and cuttings was successful, showing promising development. "Green Energy" **signed an agreement with the Chatkal district administration** to fund the project through the local development fund. Two additional experimental nurseries will be established to grow wild endemic Knorring's hawthorn seedlings and other endangered species in Sumsar, Trek-Sai, and Dzhanly-Bazar villages.



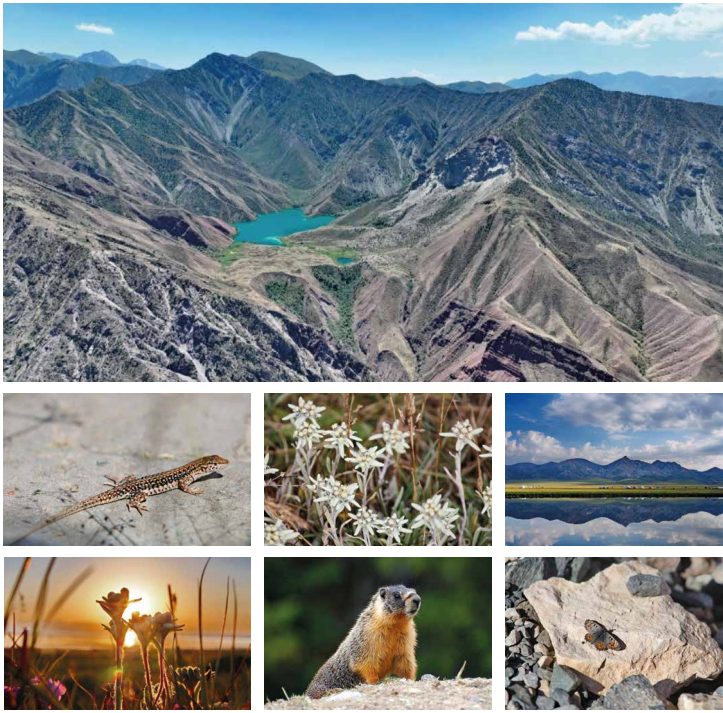
 **Over 2000 seeds** of Knorring's hawthorn planted |  **Workshops** to raise awareness were held |  **Agreement** to fund through local fund signed

Organization name: **Public Fund "Union of Photojournalists"** | Project title: **Promotion of ecotourism in key biodiversity areas of Kyrgyzstan** | Project KBA and Corridors: **all KBAs in Kyrgyzstan, Aflatun-Padysha-Ata and Kasan-Sai in particular**

The Kyrgyz Republic faces the challenge of conserving its unique biodiversity across 32 key biodiversity areas amidst a developing economy and growing tourism sector. The project team of journalists and experienced travelers, aimed to identify and highlight local conservation champions in Kyrgyzstan, raise awareness of their work, and attract more sustainability-minded tourism to these critical areas, which could help generate funds for biodiversity conservation.

Expeditions were organized to remote parts of Kyrgyzstan to gather data and take photographs. These were published on MAP.KG, an online resource created to raise awareness and support sustainable tourism in KBAs. The site features descriptions, photos, and stories from 32 KBAs, along with contacts of local community members involved in conservation. At this time, **MAP.KG** is a free photo bank, hosting over 1500 photos of Kyrgyzstan's unique nature. The resource provides significant information to diverse stakeholders, ranging from local authorities to international foundations.

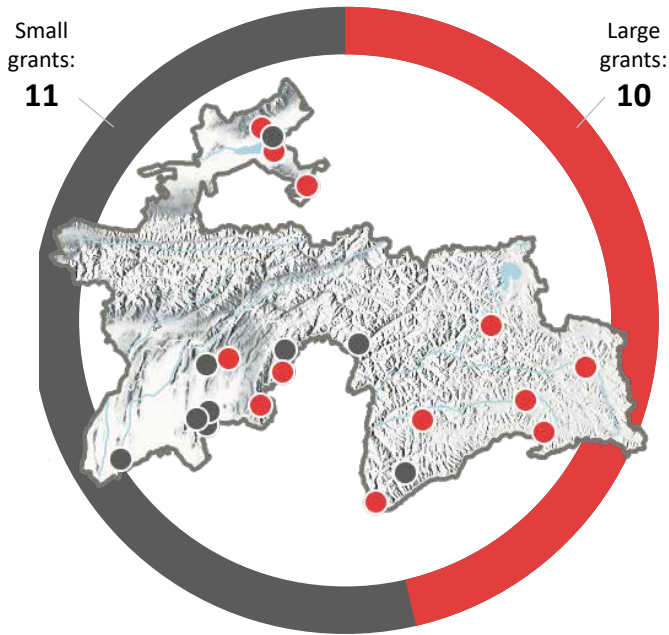
The project also supported three community conservation "champions" (local groups, or "jamaats" in the priority KBAs Aflatun-Padysha-Ata and Kasan-Sai) to develop sustainable tourism initiatives.



 **Expeditions** organized to remove parts of the country |  **Over 1500 photos** taken |  **Free photobank** created: map.kg



TAJIKISTAN



15 organizations:

- Ganji Tabiat
- Iktidor
- Nature Protection Team
- Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
- Youth Group on Protection of Environment
- Noosfera
- Olima
- Youth Ecological Centre
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Agroecology Zarzamin
- Kuhhoi Pomir
- Duniyoi Mukhabbat
- Plateau Perspectives
- Fauna & Flora International - HQ
- Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan

Socio-economic benefits received



Trained



Cash benefits received by



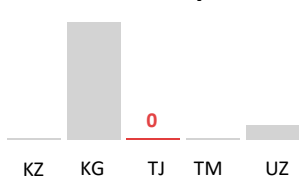
Number of communities

17

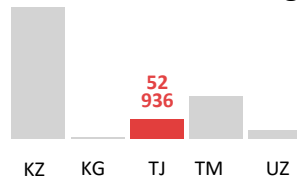
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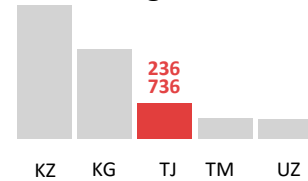
Protected area hectares created or expanded



Production landscape hectares better managed



KBA hectares strengthened



Number of animal species benefited: **5**



Number of plant species benefited: **7**



Organization name: **Public Organization "Ganji Tabiat"**

Project title: **Project title: Rare and Endemic Plant Species Conservation in South Tajikistan**

Project KBA and Corridors: **TAJ22 Muminabad, TAJ23 Dashtijum, COR-000249 Central Tajikistan**

South Tajikistan is home to many rare and endemic plant and tree species, which face anthropogenic pressure due to unsustainable livestock grazing and resource overexploitation.

To combat this, the project **established tree nurseries**, raised awareness among rural communities, and conducted a baseline survey on wild fruit and nut species. An initial small grant from CEPF funded the creation of four micro-nurseries, **planting 25,495 wild apple (Malus Sieversii), pear (Pyrus tadshikistanica), and other fruit seedlings**. As part of the "Plant a Tree" campaign, schoolchildren planted 100 seedlings, and 100 villagers planted seedlings at their homes.

A follow-up large grant enabled Missouri Botanical Garden experts to survey and map target species in the target key biodiversity areas (KBAs). Additionally, an **educational campaign for secondary schools aligned** with Tajikistan's 2021–2025 biodiversity program ("National program for the environmental education development and biodiversity awareness raising of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025") included ecology clubs, environment weeks, quizzes, and other activities.



 **3 nurseries established**  **25 495 fruit seedlings planted**  **Educational campaign aligned**

Organization name: **Youth Ecological Centre**

Project title: **Sustainable Energy Use to Reduce Threats to Tigrovaya Balka Reserve in Tajikistan**

Project KBA and Corridors: **TAJ17 Tigrovaya Balka**

The Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve, home to Tajikistan's rare riparian forests, supports around 160 bird species, including 70 nesting ones, and serves as an enclave of native forest amid agricultural lands. However, it faces threats from nearby agricultural expansion, poaching, illegal logging, forest fires, and grazing. The reserve has no buffer zone with the bordering 5 villages, whose combined population totals over 9,500.

To reduce pressure on the reserve, the project team engaged the services of a skilled craftsman who **constructed 50 energy-efficient stoves**, cutting firewood use by 50% in the participating households, and **installed five photovoltaic power stations, five manure briquette sites, and 20 solar kitchens**. Local residents were also trained to build the energy-efficient stoves on their own, and two nurseries with 6,000 Turkestan poplar seedlings were established to provide sustainable fuel sources.



 **50 energy-efficient stoves constructed**  **5 photovoltaic power stations installed**  **5 manure briquette sites installed**  **20 solar kitchens installed**

Organization name: **Youth Group on Protection of Environment**

Project title: **Protection and development of Kayrukum wetlands through establishment of favorable conditions for flora and fauna**

Project KBA and Corridors: **TAJ03 Kayrakum**

The Kayrukum key biodiversity area, a wetland and riparian ecosystem around the Kayrukum reservoir fed by the Syr Darya River, has suffered severe degradation over the past 15–20 years due to economic hardship, climate change, agricultural expansion, deforestation, and unsustainable fishing practices. Local communities use the area for wood, fishing, farming, and grazing, and lack awareness of its ecological importance.

The project established a 1.2-hectare nursery, fenced to protect from grazing, with over 6,000 seedlings of various native trees common to the tugai ecosystem. A 1,150-meter floodplain channel was desilted to improve fish habitats. Restoration efforts included repairing a 360-degree surveillance system, boats, and a pump for firefighting and irrigation.

Awareness seminars educated locals about riparian forests and their ecosystem services, with strong participation from residents, especially youth, in forest restoration efforts.



 **1.2 hectare nursery established**

 **1150 – meter floodplain channel desilted**

 **Awareness seminars organized**

Organization name: **Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan (ANCOT)**

Project title: **Supporting private sector and community conservation co-management in Baljuvan KBA**

Project KBA and Corridors: **TAJ21 Baljuvan, COR-000249 Central Tajikistan**

The Baljuvan KBA is very high in biodiversity, home to urial (*Ovis vignei bocharensis*) and other vulnerable and endangered species. Only 4% of its area (~3,800 hectares) is under official protection as the Sari-Khosor National Park, while much of the rest of the KBA faces pressure from unsustainable grazing. In 2016, 24,000 hectares (25% of the KBA) were leased to Oxus Holding LLC, a hunting concessioner, for sustainable hunting and tourism. Oxus banned unlicensed hunting and livestock grazing in several degraded areas.

Over the course of the project, the ANCOT team and Oxus personnel assessed ecosystem threats, monitored urial and ibex populations, set up camera traps for carnivores, and mapped vegetation, creating a sustainable management plan for the leased area.

To compliment that work and provide alternatives, local communities received beekeeping training and several households received beehives. These families are already harvesting and selling their honey.

Specially-contracted experts developed a plan to restore native wild-fruit tree species. Trainings on ecosystem services were provided for 10 rangers and 20 community members, alongside a wildlife camp and educational courses for children on native fauna and flora.



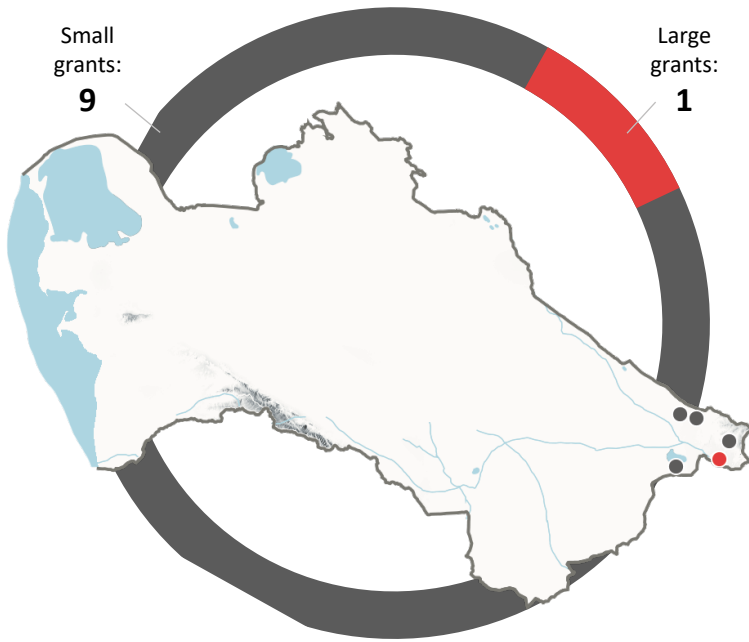
 **Urial and ibex populations monitoring**

 **Beekeeping training provided**

 **10 rangers and 20 community members trainings provided**

TURKMENISTAN





7 organizations:

- Ynanch-Vepa
- Agzybir Hereket
- Obadeskahyzmat
- Tebigy Kuwwat
- Gyzyt Chesme
- Nature Preserving Society of Turkmenistan
- Center for Large Landscape Conservation

Socio-economic benefits received



Trained



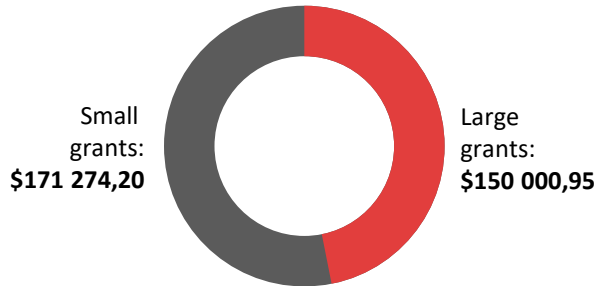
Cash benefits received by



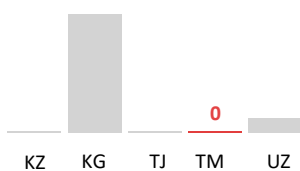
Number of communities

12

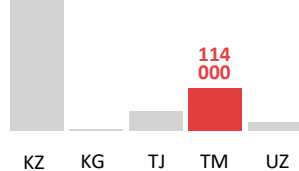
Total money amount



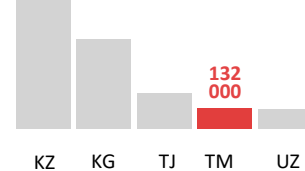
Protected area hectares created or expanded



Production landscape hectares better managed



KBA hectares strengthened



Number of animal species benefited: 10



Number of plant species benefited: 0

Organization name:	Project title:	Project KBA and Corridors:
Agzybir Hereket	Monitoring and conservation of threatened bird species" and "The Creation of the first Turkmenistan hunting farm in the "Tallimerjen-Kelif-Zeyid"	TKM02 Tallymerjen

There is insufficient data on the abundance of wintering geese in the project's territory - in the agricultural area of Tallimerjen, Kelif Lakes and Zeyit Reservoir. The major aim of the first Agzybir Hereket project was to obtain up-to-date data on bird numbers, to zone the project area, and produce a map showing the current structure of the entire area, with indication of all protected areas. Data on threatened and rare bird species in the project area during winter and spring periods was collected. A GIS analysis was carried out.

The Agzybir Hereket team prepared supplementary materials about threatened bird species in the project area for the Red Book of Turkmenistan. The project team also tracked the steppe eagle (Aquila nipalensis) routes in the project area. A dossier of the Zeyit-Kelif wetland was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan. The adoption of this document will contribute to the nomination of this wetland to the Ramsar List as a wetland of international importance. The project personnel also organized the Crane Day event.

The second Agzybir Hereket project aimed to establish the first hunting farm in Turkmenistan. The project proposed a version of the "Kelif Hunting and Fishing Farm" model territory. The implementation of this concept will become an obligatory component of the National Strategy for the development of hunting, hunting farms and hunting science as a branch of economy, nature conservation.



-  **Turkmenistan Red data book materials collected**
-  **Zeyit-Kelif wetlands dossier developed**
-  **1st hunting farm in Turkmenistan established**

Organization name:	Project title:	Project KBA and Corridors:
Obadeskahyzmat	Conservation and restoration of pistachio orchards in the Koytendag State Nature Reserve	TKM01 Koytendag

The target plant species in this project is the pistachio, which has been growing at Koytendag KBA for thousands of years. Pistachio trees are resistant to droughts, contribute to the improvement of the local climates, and are crucial for the adaptation of rural communities to climate change. The major challenge for pistachio trees is that cattle and small ruminants eat the trees when grazing. Due to decreased precipitation, the amount and quality of grass in the Koytendag KBA is declining, and animals are forced to look for additional food sources, which include young pistachio seedlings.

Within the project, pistachio and almond seedlings were planted on the territory of one ha; the territory was fenced, and an irrigation system was installed. A special pistachio restoration center at Koytendag Nature Reserve was established, and personnel were hired. Obadeskahyzmat team organized workshops for women farmers to plant pistachios at their smallholders. More than 40 people participated in the workshop.

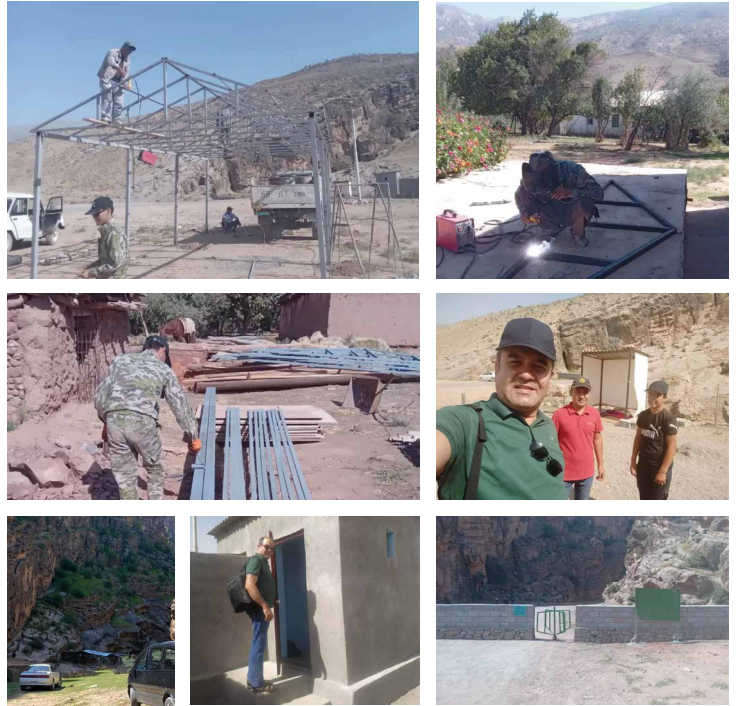


-  **1 hectar of pistachio and almond seedlings planted**
-  **Pistachio restoration center established**
-  **More than 40 people participated in workshop**

Organization name:	Project title:	Project KBA and Corridors:
Tebigy Kuwwat	Ecological tourism for conservation of the natural and cultural environment in the Koytendag Nature Reserve	TKM01 Koytendag

The Koytendag State Nature Reserve is home to more than 872 plant species, 10% of which are endemics included in the Red Book of Turkmenistan. The reserve also harbors critically endangered mammals, such as Bukhara sheep, brown bears, Turkestan lynx and the rarest Marthor goat. Birds are represented by hundreds of species. The disappearance of some rare species of flora and fauna in the KBA territory is often connected with human impacts on nature, such as unsustainable cattle breeding and progressive expansion of agricultural lands, and reducing the habitat of wild animals.

To strengthen the capacity of the reserve, the Tebigy Kuwwat team conducted a tremendous work both in supporting the reserve with equipment and in awareness raising. Ecotourism equipment was purchased, as well as equipment for the rescue of people at high altitudes. Recreation zones with comfortable benches were established, as well as bio-toilets and solar panels. **A 20m³ reservoir to collect rainwater was constructed. A rescue team to help people injured in the mountains was gathered and trained. A large-scale awareness-raising campaign was organized.** Videos and outreach materials such as calendars and leaflets about the reserve and the KBA were created. The project results were covered in the leading national newspapers.



 **20 m³ rainwater reservoir constructed**  **Rescue team gathered and trained**  **Awareness-raising campaign organized**

Organization name:	Project title:	Project KBA and Corridors:
Ynanch-Vepa	Increasing the capacity of employees of the Koytendag Nature Reserve to improve communication with local communities for the conservation of biodiversity through active environmental education	TKM01 Koytendag

Ynanch-Vepa implemented another small grant on biodiversity conservation and awareness raising in the vicinity of the Koytendag Nature Reserve. **Specialists of the Koytendag Nature Reserve were trained** in communication and environmental education. Ynanch-Vepa developed a special **electronic training module** with lessons and interactive materials to be used by reserve personnel for further use in their work on awareness-raising activities with the residents of villages surrounding the reserve in Lebap velayat (local administrative unit).

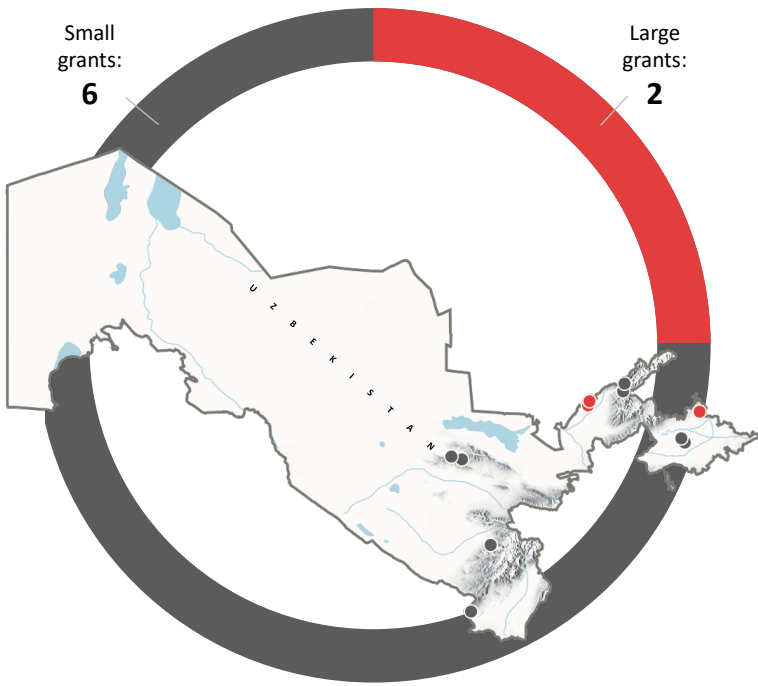
The project team also improved the reserve library by **creating the electronic catalog of books and other materials**. A workshop titled "Supporting Resources for Environmental Educators - Sources of Environmental Information" and a discussion on further improving environmental education and the environmental culture in Turkmenistan were organized.



 **Trainings for specialists of nature reserve organized**  **Electronic training module developed**  **E-catalog of books and other materials created**

UZBEKISTAN





7 organizations:

- ACTED
- EKOMAKTAB Ecological Resource Center
- Michael Succow Foundation
- Jonli Tabiat
- Stichting BirdLife Europe
- Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds
- Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan

Socio-economic benefits received



Trained



Cash benefits received by



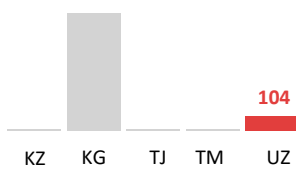
Number of communities

8

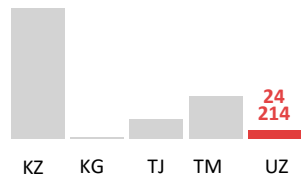
Total money amount



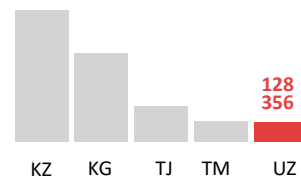
Protected area hectares created or expanded



Production landscape hectares better managed



KBA hectares strengthened



Number of animal species benefited: 13



Number of plant species benefited: 0

Organization name:	Project title:	Project KBA and Corridors:
Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds	Monitoring and conservation program for globally threatened species at the "Talimarjan Reservoir" KBA	UZH30 Talimarjan Reservoir

The sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) is one of the rarest bird species on the planet. According to the IUCN Red List, the total population size of this bird species is 11,200 and continues to decline. Preliminary studies conducted by the Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds proved the exceptional importance of the Talimarjan KBA as the only stopover site for 29% of the world's sociable lapwing population on the eastern flyway during autumn migration. Unfortunately, foraging sites at the KBA territory may completely disappear due to climate change and overgrazing in some years.

The project aim was to establish working groups for regular autumn monitoring in Talimarjan to fulfill data gaps about concrete locations of sociable lapwing breeding and nesting sites, and detect stopover timing, as well as the impact of grazing in areas where the species is concentrated. In addition, based on the monitoring results, the project team developed recommendations on sustainable pasture management in the KBA and organized meetings with village residents to present these recommendations.

Overall, within the project, **three working groups** for bird monitoring were gathered. The first group, "Sociable Lapwing," brought together teachers and students of the Karshi State University Natural Sciences Faculty to conduct observations of the sociable lapwing during the autumn migration. The second group, "Steppe Eagle," united the inspectors of the Provincial Inspectorate for Ecology and Environmental Protection to conduct observations of this bird species. The third group, "Little Sociable Lapwing," brought together school teachers and students from Nuristan and Talimarjan. This group aims to promote environmental education in the project area. The project team prepared a justification for granting the Talimarjan official protection status and developed an **action plan for the sociable lapwing conservation**. The main result of project implementation was the **establishment of the Talimarjan Nature Reserve** in December 2021.



-  **3 working groups gathered**
-  **Action plan for the sociable lapwing conservation developed**
-  **Talimarjan Nature Reserve established**

Organization name:	Project title:	Project KBA and Corridors:
EKOMAKTAB Ecological Resource Center	Restoration of the mountain ecosystem near the Karakum village by involving local nature users in forest restoration and supporting active environmental education	UZH24 Nuratau Ridge

A project KBA is degrading due to the overgrazing, cutting of trees and bushes, and excessive collection of fruits and berries by the population. The project goal was to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems in the project area through reforestation, awareness-raising, and environmental education.

The project team organized **4 master classes for school teachers and children** on the collection of seeds, planting tree seedlings and soil fertilization. 8 workshops for farmers on planting and cultivation of drought-resistant crops such as pistachio and almond were conducted. 24 interactive workshops about local biodiversity and one field trip to the places where wild pistachio and almond grow were carried out for children. Overall, more than 350 schoolchildren participated in the environmental events. The EKOMAKTAB team also familiarized local villagers with the basics of environmental legislation and with plant and animal species from the regional Red Book. Overall, the educational events highlighted the negative impacts of overgrazing on soil erosion and landslides on the mountain slopes.

Additionally, the project team prepared a **"Handbook for Young Ecologist and Arborist"** and published **200 copies** of it in Russian and Uzbek languages. Another "Handbook on cultivation of firewood in your garden" with colorful illustrations was developed and published in Uzbek. The project team also engaged videographers and designers to produce popular science videos and cartoons about the importance of ecosystem services provided by forests and trees.

Furthermore, a nursery for pistachio and almond seedlings was established in the schoolyard. Two nurseries were established at local farms. The project team purchased seedlings of firewood trees for local villagers.



-  **4 master classes for school teachers and children organized**
-  **350 school children participated**
-  **200 copies of "Handbook for Young Ecologist and Arborist" published**

Organization name:	Project title:	Project KBA and Corridors:
Michael Succow Foundation	Conservation of key natural complexes in the Fergana Valley	UZB14 Akkum Sands

The Fergana Valley is the most densely populated territory of Uzbekistan. The ongoing agricultural expansion, irrigation of agricultural fields, and creation of more fish farms disturbs the hydrological regime in the Syr Darya river floodplain, leading to increased soil salinity and overall land degradation. There used to be a single sand massif, Akkuma sands, on the territory of the valley. Nowadays, Akkuma sands are represented by 13 isolated areas due to agricultural development.

The Michael Succow Foundation carried out comprehensive studies of biodiversity in the Fergana Valley. Scientists **discovered two new species of herpetofauna**. The project team also organized a **media tour to cover the existing environmental issues** in local and leading national newspapers and media resources in different languages. The team also prepared a justification for the establishment of new protected areas in the area and submitted it to the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Uzbekistan Republic. The Decree of the President of Uzbekistan approved the **establishment of the Fergana Nature Park** on an area of more than 100,000 ha. Comprehensive zoological surveys identify areas of biodiversity value and key threats.



 **2 new species** of herpetofauna discovered

 **Media tour** to cover the existing environmental issues organized

 **Fergana Nature Park** establishment

Organization name:	Project title:	Project KBA and Corridors:
Jonli Tabiat	Necessary measures identification for the conservation of priority species in the Northern Piedmont Plain of the Nuratau Ridge	UZB23 Northern Piedmont Plain of Nuratau Ridge, UZB24 Nuratau Ridge

The project KBAs are habitat for vulnerable and endangered bird species with declining population numbers (brown pigeon, steppe eagle, imperial eagle, and vulture). KBAs face different anthropogenic threats: overexploitation of natural resources, nest disturbance during the breeding season, lack of food resources for birds of prey due to decline of small ruminants' populations, poisoning by veterinary drugs, and many others. The project objective was to develop sustainable measures for the conservation of priority bird species. Annual **observations of nesting and migrating birds** were organized, and lacking information about species ecology was collected. Volunteers continued to collect data on birds' migration even when the project ended.

In addition to the work with birds, the project aimed to restore degrading ecosystems of the Nuratau Ridge. The project team **established micronurseries for tulip species**. In three years, local people made three times more bulbs of tulips and can sell the flowers. An innovative approach to growing pistachio seedlings was developed. In the long term, growing pistachios will help the local population to increase their income and to change their attitude towards exploitation of natural resources. In Spring 2026, the expected income from selling tulip flowers in target villages will be **100,000 million Uzbek Soms or 7,787 USD**.

In 2022-2024, Jonli Tabiat received a small grant and implemented one more project reducing anthropogenic pressure in another KBA in Uzbekistan, — UZB31, Western Hissar, the Gissar Nature Reserve buffer zone.



 **Observations** of nesting and migrating birds organized

 **Tulips micro-nurseries** established

 **100 000 000** Uzbek Soms expecting to get by selling tulips by 2026

International grants:
8
int. projects

Participating countries:



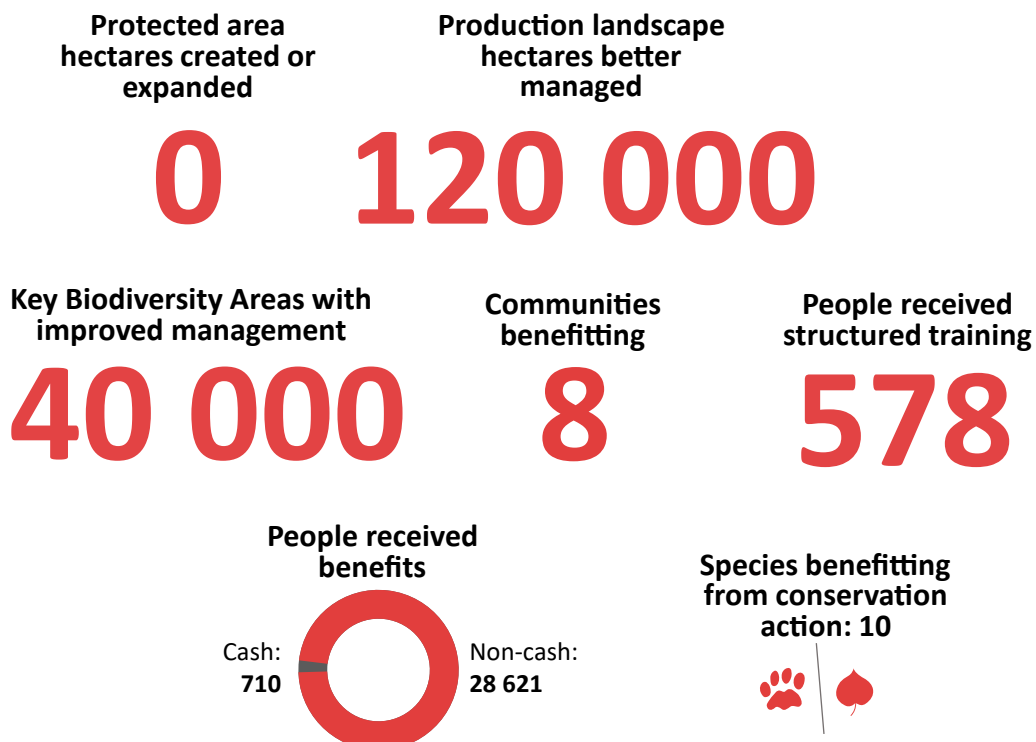
Participating organizations:



Projects:

<p>Project title:</p> <p>Strengthening Conservation of Key Biodiversity Areas in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan</p>	<p>Project title:</p> <p>Enhance civil society contributions to priority-setting in the Mountains of Central Asia</p>	<p>Project title:</p> <p>Incorporating Biodiversity Safeguards in Development of Water Infrastructure in Central Asia</p>	<p>Project title:</p> <p>Supporting effective safeguards at corridor-level in the era of infrastructure boom in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan</p>
<p>Project title:</p> <p>Transboundary conservation of the Great Bustard in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan</p>	<p>Project title:</p> <p>Engaging communities to safeguard rural livelihoods and cultivate conservation partnerships in Kyrgyzstan</p>	<p>Project title:</p> <p>Expanding the micro-reserve concept in Kyrgyzstan and the region</p>	<p>Project title:</p> <p>Improving capacity and connectivity between reserves in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan</p>

Global Indicators:



Protected area hectares
created or expanded

104 996 ha 

People received
structured training

7 984 

Key Biodiversity Areas with
improved management

2 008 982 ha 

People received
cash benefits

1 821 

Production Landscapes with strengthened
management of biodiversity

664 665 ha 

People receiving
non-cash benefits

148 666 

Communities
benefitting

93 

Species benefitting from
conservation action

37 



Thank you for your attention!