

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Project Title: | Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation | | |
| Country(ies): | Global | GEF Project ID: | tbd |
| GEF Agency(ies): | UNDP | GEF Agency Project ID: | 5413 |
| Other Executing Partner(s): | UNDP, World Bank, WWF, Snow Leopard Trust, Interpol, etc | Submission Date: | June 11, 2014 |
| GEF Focal Area (s): | Biodiversity | Project Duration (Months) | 36 |
| Name of parent program (if applicable): | N/A | Project Agency Fee (\$): | 86,364 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> • For SGP <input type="checkbox"/> • For PPP <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

| Focal Area Objectives | Expected FA Outcomes | Trust Fund | Indicative Grant Amount (\$) | Indicative Co-financing (\$) |
|--|----------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems BD-2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors | | GEFTF | 1,000,000 | 4,500,000 |
| Total Project Cost | | | 1,000,000 | 4,500,000 |

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To strengthen conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes and ensure stability of global snow leopard population by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats.

| Project Component | Grant Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | Indicative Grant Amount (\$) | Indicative Co-financing (\$) |
|--|------------|--|--|------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Knowledge generation and sharing for transboundary landscapes | TA | Increased understanding of approach and tools required to address key gaps for successful transboundary SL landscape management and protection, including approach and tools required for effective enforcement. Increased score in UNDP Capacity Score card for selected Wildlife authorities in 4 landscapes (baseline and target to be set during PPG) | 1.1 Tools, methods and guidelines in place for identification of landscapes and measures to be included in designing management plans and partnership mechanisms for securing transboundary landscapes; for advancing the actions in SL transboundary landscape conservation and management. Such tools and approaches made available to all range countries involved in transboundary SL landscape conservation and management, including through training of trainers on their use through regional topical workshops 1.2 Training materials and methods made available through an online facility (linking to existing approaches being developed under NBSAP Forum and BES-Net) 1.3 Enhanced enforcement capacities of wildlife protection agencies (in 4 transboundary landscapes) increased through: (i) Models of enforcement mechanisms (regulations, monitoring, apprehending, prosecution) from the range countries analyzed, recommendations to improve effectiveness | GEFTF | 399,091 | 1,725,000 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|----|--|---|-------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | elaborated; (ii) training materials developed and rolled out for wildlife protection agencies and agreed model (multi-agency) in at least one landscape | | | |
| 2. Global and national monitoring framework for snow leopard ecosystems | TA | Sustainable landscape management measures identified and monitoring and evaluation systems established in 4 transboundary landscapes ¹ ensuring: (i) reduction in key threats (poaching, retaliatory hunting, habitat destruction etc.); (ii) Snow leopard populations in 4 landscapes remain stable or increase [Baselines for (i) and (ii) to be determined in PPG phase] | <p>2.1 At least 4 transboundary SL landscapes mapped (based on national and international geo-spatial information; estimation of SL populations; analysis of threat assessment studies). This provides information on spatial coverage, health status (quality and trend), type and level of threats (at landscape level) to inform national and global management decisions to address landscape level stressors; and guide strategic planning and evaluation of SL conservation strategies</p> <p>2.2 A set of common monitoring indicators for SL habitat quality, population status, prey species and different threats developed, tested and finalised based on feedback from range countries and partners</p> <p>2.3 Standard monitoring framework and system for assessing habitat quality and SL population status in place based on set of key monitoring indicators (see 2.2) and data made available to all range countries – this can feed directly into the monitoring functions of SL global Steering Committee and landscape levels and also support elaboration of landscape level management plans</p> <p>2.4 Sustainable landscape management measures identified in 4 transboundary landscapes</p> | GEFTF | 300,000 | 1,225,000 |
| 3. Ensuring sustainability of SL conservation | TA | Increased resources leveraged for snow leopard conservation actions at national and global levels by up to 15 percent from current baseline (to be assessed during PPG) including at least 5% coming from the private sector partners | <p>3.1 Appropriate coordination mechanism among partner organisations established to provide a coherent approach to support on key aspects such as: a) dedicated technical support; b) leveraging resources; c) knowledge sharing</p> <p>3.2 Developed guidelines on integrated financing strategies for National Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Programs that consider resource mobilization from a range of sources including government budgetary resources, official donor assistance, private sector and other innovative funding mechanisms (e.g. PES, conservation bonds, bio-diversity offsets etc.) made available to range countries</p> <p>3.3 At least 2 multi-stakeholder meetings (including range countries, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, private sector) organised to discuss long term strategy for resource mobilization fund GSLEP and NSLEP actions;</p> <p>3.4 Private sector dialogue platforms established (e.g. mining companies, tourism companies, pharmaceutical companies) to increase interest in SL conservation resulting in integration of SL conservation needs into their production practices and increase resources flow to SL conservation actions</p> | GEFTF | 210,000 | 1,140,909 |
| Subtotal | | | | | 909,091 | 4,090,909 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) | | | | GEFTF | 90,909 | 409,091 |
| Total Project Costs | | | | | 1,000,000 | 4,500,000 |

¹ Exact area of impact will be determined during PPG

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Amount (\$) |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Multilateral agency | World Bank | Cash | 1,500,000 |
| NGO | SLT, NABU, WWF, etc | Cash | 1,000,000 |
| GEF Agency | UNDP | Cash | 2,000,000 |
| Total Co-financing | | | 4,500,000 |

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

| GEF Agency | Type of Trust Fund | Focal Area | Country Name/Global | Grant Amount (\$) (a) | Agency Fee (\$) (b) ² | Total (\$) c=a+b |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| UNDP | GEFTF | Biodiversity | Global | 1,000,000 | 95,000 | 1,095,000 |
| Total Grant Resources | | | | | | |

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant:

| | <u>Amount Requested (\$)</u> | <u>Agency Fee for PPG (\$)</u> |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • (upto)\$100k for projects up to & including \$3 million | \$70,000 | \$6,650 |

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description.

Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

The snow leopard is a top predator and a global flagship species that has an extremely large habitat range inhabiting mountain ranges (with elevations ranging from 540m asl to 5000m asl spanning around 1.8 million km²) in as many as 12 countries: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kingdom of Bhutan, People’s Republic of China, Republic of India, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan.. Highly elusive, exact numbers are difficult to determine but are estimated to range from 3,500 to 7,000 numbers in the wild. The snow leopard is classified as Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List; and is listed in Appendix I of CITES and Appendix II on the Convention on Migratory Species (the CMS or Bonn Convention). As the top predator in the high mountains in these countries, the snow leopard plays an important ecological role in controlling the populations and health of the wild ungulate species it preys on. While the Asiatic brown bears that overlap the snow leopard’s range subsist largely on pikas, marmots, scavenged meat and plant matter, the snow leopard subsists almost entirely on large animals caught live, frequently sick or injured animals. Protecting the snow leopard, its prey species, and its habitat is critical to protecting broader eco-regions as well, such as the high altitude grasslands and wetlands in these range countries. As such it is an important indicator species of highly healthy mountain ecosystems. In addition, the Snow Leopard is an important cultural symbol. In all the range countries, the lifestyle, religious beliefs and traditional practices (traditional agriculture, marriage, governance) are inter-connected with the presence of snow leopard.

Ecosystems inhabited by snow leopards (referred to hereafter as “snow leopard ecosystems”) are incredibly rich and diverse. For instance in India alone, snow leopard habitat supports 350 species of mammals and 1200 species of birds while the Altai mountains support nearly 4000 species of plants, 143 species of mammals and 425 species of birds. Several flagship species also co-habitat these ecosystems with snow leopard – red panda, musk deer, goral and serow are some examples. A number of endangered and important medicinal plants also occur including more than 675 edible plants and nearly 1743 species of medicinal value in the Himalayan region alone, many of which are currently used by the pharmaceutical industry. These ecosystems also underpin agriculture (a mainstay of the majority of local communities who live in these areas). More than 335

species of wild relatives of cultivated crops are found in the region. Notwithstanding the global biodiversity and several other immense values, snow leopards and their ecosystems are endangered throughout their range and face several threats, as described hereafter:

(a) *Habitat fragmentation and degradation* especially due to large scale infrastructure development (roads, mining, hydropower development etc.) spurred by high population growth and countries' striving for economic development. Major infrastructural facilities are either planned or under construction in various parts of the snow leopard's range. These include development projects spurred by mineral exploration and extraction, the need for major road and rail transportation networks, new gas and oil pipelines, and hydroelectric power facilities that may be associated with large or medium-sized dams. As water shortages increase in the densely populated lowlands of South and East Asia, so the need for upstream water-storage facilities is expected to grow significantly. Large infrastructure projects have a variety of potential negative impacts on snow leopards, their prey, and their habitats. These potential impacts include fragmentation of large landscapes and creating barriers to movements of snow leopard and prey, as well as mortality (such as road kills), pollution, disturbance, and poaching and habitat encroachment by workers. Construction and/or operation of infrastructure projects directly eliminates and degrades habitat. Transportation networks in particular open up remote areas to poachers and facilitate trafficking in wildlife. Habitat degradation is also caused by overgrazing (see below), and is projected to be intensified by the impacts of climate change in many of the range states [IPCC, 4th AR, 2007]

(b) *Increasing livestock and overgrazing* that occurs in several range countries, reducing populations of ungulate species on which snow leopards prey, and sometimes leading to retaliatory killing by local communities when their livestock is killed by snow leopard. Although human population density in the snow leopard's ecosystems is relatively low, its habitats are heavily used by people whose livelihoods depend on traditional pastoralism and agro-pastoralism. With growing human populations, livestock herds are growing too and in some places exceed the capacity of the land to support them. With new economic incentives—particularly a rising global demand for cashmere—goat herds in particular have greatly increased in size. The resulting overgrazing leads to degradation of pastureland and serious soil erosion. Competition for food with large and growing domestic livestock populations reduces wild prey numbers, which already live at relatively low densities due to the low productivity of the habitat. Moreover, with lower prey numbers, snow leopards may turn more often to killing domestic livestock. Livestock depredation rates vary widely over space and time from less than one percent in parts of Mongolia to more than 12 percent in hot spots in Nepal. More than 40 percent of the people in 10 of the 12 snow leopard range countries live below national poverty levels, so such losses represent a significant loss of income, when few or no options to animal husbandry are available. Herders are especially angered by “surplus killing” events in which a snow leopard enters an enclosure and kills several livestock in a single incident. Thus, snow leopards are often killed in retribution or for prevention. With subsistence agro-pastoralism extensively practiced across the range, it is essential to manage human-snow leopard depredation levels through strategies such as better animal husbandry; wild prey restoration; conservation awareness programs; devising sustainable means for offsetting or sharing economic losses; and creating incentive programs, such as through alternative livelihood programs, to gain local community support for snow leopard conservation.

(c) *Illegal trade and poor law enforcement* due to remote landscapes undermine conservation efforts. The impact of illegal trade cannot be measured precisely, due in large part to its clandestine nature, but illegal trade and illicit demand for snow leopard products exists at national and international levels, including in the West. Snow leopards are killed and traded for their fur and other body parts, including teeth, claws, and bones. Snow leopard fur is used for clothing, hats, and furnishings. Even the meat is occasionally eaten. Recent evidence indicates that trade is now moving toward rugs, luxury décor, and taxidermy. Given the value of a snow leopard pelt, pelts from kills by local herders in retaliation for livestock depredation may also end up in one of the market chains. Secondary killing of snow leopards, such as being caught in snares set for other wildlife, may also occur. Weak wildlife law enforcement is a chronic problem across the snow leopard's range, including weak laws and low levels of prosecution even when offenders are apprehended, as well as underfunding of the wildlife sector, such as for sufficient staffing for anti-poaching efforts directed at illegal hunting of snow leopards and prey. Moreover, the size, remoteness, and harshness of snow leopard habitat, plus the fact that most of it lies outside of PAs, makes law enforcement challenging. Porous borders that reduce traffickers' risks of detection also create challenges. The increasing value of wildlife products of all kinds has brought the involvement of organized crime. International efforts are needed to reduce illicit demand for endangered wildlife in markets around the world and increase capacity for global law enforcement action against organized syndicates. Within snow leopard range countries, increased cooperation and communication is needed among the agencies involved or potentially involved in combatting wildlife crime (PA enforcement staff, police, customs, border patrols, army). Thus, addressing and curbing the illegal snow leopard trade needs a series of actions taken at international, national, and local scales.

(d) *Weak transboundary cooperation.* Political borders rarely coincide with entire ecosystems. This is particularly true of mountain regions where national boundaries commonly follow ridgelines and where snow leopards and mountain ungulates range on both sides. It has been estimated that up to a third of the snow leopard's known or potential range is located either along or less than 50-100 km from the international borders of the 12 range countries. More than 31 percent of the PAs within the snow leopard range (totaling 276,123 km²) have been classified as existing or potential transboundary PAs. The need for transboundary cooperation in these cases, and in wider ecosystem initiatives, has long been clear. Transboundary cooperation offers several important benefits. Most prominently, larger, contiguous areas offer safeguards for snow leopards, prey, and other biodiversity by better protecting more habitat, providing for maintenance of minimum viable populations of many species, and allowing movement, particularly of large carnivores and ungulates. Poaching and illegal trade across boundaries are better controlled by transboundary cooperation, including joint patrols and border inspections to stem illegal wildlife trafficking. Transboundary cooperation also facilitates knowledge sharing about biodiversity and cultural resources and exchange of skills and experience, including cooperative research and information management.

(e) *Limited human and financial capacity for conservation and weak conservation policies and institutions:* All of the snow leopard range countries report they have insufficient numbers of trained conservation practitioners at all levels, from frontline PA staff to game managers and wildlife law enforcement personnel to research scientists. Moreover, and even where conservation staff levels may be adequate, such as in some scientific institutions, low funding limits their effectiveness. In particular, range countries lack people trained to address the needs of communities and develop community programs. In large part, this is due to insufficient country budgets for snow leopard conservation and for conservation in general, given most range countries are developing nations and some are extremely poor. The Snow Leopard Trust estimates that NGOs and multilaterals contribute less than US\$8 million per year directly to snow leopard conservation. Most of the range countries need greater financial and technical support from the international community and the private sector, in combination with stepping up their own efforts to finance successful snow leopard conservation. In most range countries, conservation-related laws, policies, and institutions are weak as well: six of the 12 snow leopard countries report that lack of effective policy is a high threat to the snow leopard, wild prey, and ecosystems, and only two report this as a low threat. For example, only a few countries have laws or policies that legally empower or offer incentives to local communities to protect and manage local natural resources, even though these are considered core principles and good practices in snow leopard conservation. Further, all countries prohibit killing of snow leopards, but insufficient funding and equipment hamper enforcement. In several countries, prey species are not protected or, when they are, penalties for poaching are not enough to deter it.

Baseline projects

There are several initiatives both national and global that are on-going. Among these the key baseline is the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Conservation Program (GSLEP). The GSLEP and its supporting NSLEPs and GSCs represent the first-ever comprehensive, coordinated effort to conserve snow leopards and their mountain habitats in Asia. Before now, snow leopard conservation efforts have been largely limited to isolated, relatively small-scale interventions. With the GSLEP, snow leopard conservation moves from isolated interventions to collective impact initiatives that unify the efforts of countries and the global conservation community to achieve a shared vision and goal. Moreover, the successful Global Snow Leopard Forum that was organized by the snow leopard range countries by the leadership of Kyrgyz Republic in October 2013 is evidence of strong political commitment even in the face of competing demands and of the recognition at high political levels of the value of snow leopards and the local, national, regional, and global ecosystem services their mountain habitats provide.

Evolution of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP): The ever increasing level of existing and emerging threats (in particular from mining and other large-scale infrastructure, including building transportation networks and dams for hydropower, and climate change) and the systemic nature of these threat mean that an integrated response is needed to restore and sustainably maintain the integrity of the high-mountain ecosystems that are the habitats of snow leopards. Recognizing this challenge and the paramount importance of securing the snow leopard ecosystems for long-term delivery of important ecosystem services that local people and economies critically depend on, in 2012, the range countries began an initiative that would comprehensively address high-mountain environmental issues using the conservation of the charismatic and endangered snow leopard as a flagship. This iconic and culturally treasured great cat is a good indicator species as it quickly reacts to habitat disturbance and its successful conservation requires sustainable long-term systemic solutions to virtually all major environmental issues impacting the quality of habitats. The model for the effort was the Global Tiger Initiative's Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP), launched by the Heads of Governments of the 13 tiger range countries (TRCs) at the International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg in 2010. The GTRP is a comprehensive global approach, led by the TRCs with

support from global partners, that systemically advances the conservation of wild tigers and their ecosystems in Asia. The 12 snow leopards range countries, with technical support from international organizations, have initiated the process of developing a Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP). In tandem, the range countries also developed their individual National Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Priorities (NSLEPs). These NSLEPs are the core of the GSLEP. The GSLEP is in turn supported by four cross-cutting Global Support Components (GSCs). Under the leadership of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic the first International Forum on Snow Leopard Conservation in Bishkek from October 22-23, 2013, the government leaders issued the Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards, whose stated goal is “to protect and recover snow leopard populations and their fragile habitats for all people to enjoy” and unanimously endorsed the GSLEP as the road map for achieving that goal.

Substantive focus of the GSLEP and resources: The GSLEP seeks to address high-mountain development issues using the conservation of the charismatic and endangered snow leopard as a flagship. It is a 7 years (till 2020) range-wide effort that unites range country governments, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector around a shared vision to conserve snow leopards and their valuable high-mountain ecosystems. The snow leopard range countries agreed, with support from interested organizations, to work together to identify and secure at least 20 healthy populations of snow leopards across the cat’s range by 2020. The 12 individual National Snow Leopard and Ecosystems Priorities (NSLEPs) are the major vehicle through which the GSLEP priorities and actions will be delivered. The NSLEPs are designed provide a set of priority, concrete project activities to be implemented to meet national goals and, collectively, the overarching global goal. The *Global Support Components (GSCs)*, which were prepared by international organizations aim to address issues to be addressed transcend national boundaries and go beyond the capacity of any one country to address alone. The GSCs aim to support and assist the range countries, as needed, in the areas of wildlife law enforcement; knowledge sharing; transboundary cooperation; engaging with industry; and research and monitoring. The GSLEP and the NSLEP aim to secure the snow leopard landscapes through a set of related activities that includes: engaging local communities in conservation, including promoting sustainable livelihoods, and addressing human-wildlife conflict; managing habitats and prey based upon monitoring and evaluation of populations and range areas; combating poaching and illegal trade; transboundary management and enforcement; engaging industry; research and monitoring; building capacity and enhancing conservation policies and institutions; and building awareness. The total funding required for the conservation of snow leopards and their habitat across their range over the seven-year program has been estimated to about US\$190 million for the period of 2014 to 2020. These estimates are expected to be further refined as the program evolves and as further inputs are received from agencies and sectors, such as customs, education, and infrastructure, whose costs and contribution were not accounted for. The 12 range countries together have committed at least half of the estimated \$190 million while the GTI, WWF, SLT and NABU together has committed around \$450,000 per year to meet the operational expenses of the GSLEP activities such as organizing forum follow-up meetings.

Examples of national initiatives: In addition, all range countries have several on-going national level efforts that are directly focused on snow leopards. For example India’s “Project Snow Leopard”, launched at the beginning of 2009, to safeguard and conserve the country’s natural heritage of high-altitude wildlife populations and their habitats by promoting conservation through participatory policies and actions. It is aimed at strengthening wildlife conservation in the Himalayan high altitudes, covering Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. It promotes a knowledge-based and adaptive conservation framework that fully involves the local communities, who share the snow leopard’s range, in conservation efforts. This national project alone has a budget of around Rs. 800 million (US\$ 13.3 million) in the current five year plan (2012-2017). Likewise, China’s Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan (2013-2020) focuses on: (a) investigating and monitoring snow leopard population and habitat dynamics; (b) designing and revising management system of protection, and habitat enhancement; (c) coordination on snow leopard conservation with local communities; (d) and strengthening law enforcement. Although there are no budget figures for the Action Plan (to be determined based on need), these are expected to large (in the order of \$30-40 million). Russia spends around \$2.9 million a year for activities related to snow leopard and ecosystem protection.

Policy and legislation: Some of the oldest pieces of legislation in the majority of the range countries that contain subjects on nature conservation include the Forestry Acts (e.g. Forest Act of India 1929). While these laws were instrumental in according protection to several important species and ecosystems, often these were either restrictive or did not fully meet the needs of biodiversity conservation. All range countries have therefore promulgated various laws designed to accord protection to biodiversity and areas of high biodiversity conservation value in the form of protected areas. These include dedicated conservation related legislation that protects all forms of wildlife including animals, birds and plants such as the Wild Life Protection Act of India (1972), or specific laws passed for the creation of protected / conservation (Conservation Act of 1973,

Nepal). In the majority of countries there are also blanket environmental laws such as the Environment Protection Acts (e.g. EPA, 1986) that cover almost all environmental cases dealing with substantive environmental issues including pollution of water, land and air. In more recent times, laws have been passed dealing with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) that are designed to identify, prevent or mitigate harmful impacts of large scale infrastructure and development projects and plans. A common policy document to all range countries is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). NBSAPs reflects the country's vision for biodiversity and the broad policy and institutional measures that the country will take to fulfil the objectives of the Convention, while the action plan comprises the concrete actions to be taken to achieve the strategy. The strategy includes national targets developed in the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and its twenty Aichi Targets adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The strategy and action plan are developed by each Party in accordance with national priorities, circumstances and capabilities.

Long term solution and barriers to the long term solution

As described, while there are several initiatives (at national and global levels) that address snow leopard conservation issues in individual range countries and to a limited extent across transboundary landscapes, efforts are current not adequately coordinated particularly at the level of transboundary landscapes to ensure a systematic and effective strategy to reduce pressures on the snow leopard and the snow leopard ecosystem. Likewise, efforts to design and implement inter-governmental strategies and programs for conservation of snow leopard and other endangered species in transboundary areas are very much limited. To kick start the implementation of the ambitious conservation plans that were presented by the snow leopard range countries at both national and global levels and to ensure long term sustainability of the activities, the *long-term solution* proposed by the project is thus to put in place an effective and coherent strategy and process for coordinating national and global efforts, knowledge sharing and monitoring impacts to secure national and transboundary snow leopard landscapes and ecosystems. However the following three set of inter-related barriers are currently impeding this long term solution from emerging.

Barrier 1: There is an absence of an effective system for knowledge generation and sharing for transboundary landscapes:

At present, while research has been conducted in some of the range states, and wildlife authorities have access to some material on effective management and enforcement, there has been no systematic effort to gather, analyse and disseminate knowledge across snow leopard ecosystems, and a particular gap exists around the knowledge needed for transboundary conservation and enforcement. In order to underpin a coordinated and effective transboundary conservation strategy, there is a need for systematic gathering of knowledge around areas such as management planning and protection of ecosystems; effective approaches to working with communities to reduce human wildlife conflict and improve the sustainability of grazing systems; and coordinated enforcement from site-level up, across the illegal wildlife trafficking chain. Knowledge and best practice need to be shared, disseminated and discussed collaboratively in order to learn from global experience in dealing effectively with transboundary conservation challenges, particularly those of high mountain ecosystems, many of them under pressure from intensification of infrastructure development, livestock grazing and climate change. In addition to the challenges of expanding protected area systems and managing the human-wildlife interface in production landscapes, there is also a lack of an effective enforcement model for preventing poaching and illegal trafficking, for apprehending and prosecuting perpetrators, and for strengthening the criminal justice system and border controls. Means of communicating and sharing knowledge, information and data across range countries are also very limited at present.

Barrier 2: Current efforts to develop and implement a monitoring framework for measuring progress and evaluating success is in a nascent stage:

While data exists for particular areas and time periods that have been the subject of many research and conservation initiatives over the past few decades, particularly through the International Snow Leopard Trust and the Snow Leopard Conservancy there is an absence of a comprehensive system of data on the status, health and trends of snow leopards, their prey species, their habitats, and the threats they face. In order to design and monitor the effectiveness of a coordinated and effective transboundary conservation strategy for snow leopard ecosystems, there is a need for an agreed, common monitoring framework. This needs to be capacitated and resourced in order to maintain comprehensive and up-to-date information on the health of snow leopards and the ecosystems of which they are the apex predator, and in order to track the results and impacts of transboundary conservation initiatives. Such a framework needs to be able to be implemented at multiple levels, including national, transboundary ecosystem and global scales. Current efforts to collect data are limited, fragmented and unsustainable,

and are based on varying indicators. In order for transboundary approaches to be followed in the 20 ecosystems to be identified through the GLSEP, there is a need for a model which involves a broad range of role-players, including communities as well as government and research institutions, across national boundaries in a particular ecosystems, in agreeing on indicators and means of measurement, and a need to develop these into a national and global system for monitoring and evaluation. Without the availability of systematic information and trends over time, it is not possible to identify the optimal mix of landscape management, protection and enforcement measures needed to conserve now leopard habitats, nor to measure progress over time.

Barrier 3: National and Global snow leopard ecosystem protection programs have been drafted but are not currently funded:

Through the initiative of the GSLEP to address high-mountain development issues over the period 2014-2020 using the conservation of the charismatic and endangered snow leopard as a flagship, all 12 range country governments, as well as non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector are united for the first time around a shared vision to conserve snow leopards and their valuable high-mountain ecosystems. There is agreement on the 12 individual National Snow Leopard and Ecosystems Priorities (NSLEPs), and a vision for four Global Support Components to address issues transcending national boundaries. All of this planned work, however, needs to be made possible through the mobilization of resources from a wide range of sources on a sustained basis, in order to for the goals of the GSLEP to be achieved. Despite national and international contributions, there is an estimated funding gap of \$91 million over this period, and there is a need to put in place a coordinated approach to leveraging resources on an ongoing basis, whilst also assisting with technical support and knowledge sharing. There is also a need for an integrated sustainable financing strategy that taps into domestic and international, private and public, traditional and innovative sources of finance. This includes a targeted approach to private sector role-players, not only in relation to funding, but also, for private sector role-players operating in these landscapes, to change the way they do business, making snow leopard ecosystem conservation efforts more cost-effective in the long term.

Proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and component of the project

This project is designed in line with the needs and gaps identified under a multi-stakeholder process in developing of the GSLEP, and to stimulate the implementation of the individual NSLEPs with particular focus on transboundary snow leopard landscapes. It aims at significantly enhancing capacities of concerned national institutions and partners for designing, managing and monitoring snow leopard conservation actions that otherwise would not occur, given the limited know-how and tools available currently and limited resources that have been presently leveraged to fund both national and global actions. The following three components have been designed to achieve this aim and overcome the barriers listed earlier.

Component 1: Knowledge generation and sharing for transboundary landscapes: This component will be aimed at building an increased understanding of the approaches and tools required to address key gaps for successful transboundary snow leopard landscape management and protection. The project will support identification of knowledge gaps related to designing, planning, implementing and monitoring transboundary landscape management plans and use the results of this to inform the development of a knowledge and information sharing mechanism. The participating countries across at least 4 transboundary landscapes (Tian Shan, Altai, Himalayas, Pamir) will be enabled to access this technical and process-oriented information on experiences and lessons and guide the development of landscape management plans. Tools, methods and guidelines to advance the actions in snow leopard transboundary landscape conservation and management will be developed. These tools and guidelines will take into consideration current guiding principles, case studies on lessons and good practices that are existing both at the national level and internationally². These will be made available to all range countries involved in transboundary snow leopard conservation. Training materials and a training strategy will be developed on the use of the tools and approaches. This targeted training will adopt the training of trainers approach so that a greater number of staff in each of the range countries can benefit and a critical mass of staff able to use the tools and approaches will be created. In addition, taking advantage of the existing on-line platforms such as those created under initiatives such as NBSAP Forum and BES-Net led by UNDP, developed training materials and tools will be made available through an on-line facility to allow easy and wider access. Several wildlife law enforcement models exist across the range countries. In some cases, the wildlife authorities are empowered to apprehend and prosecute poachers and traffickers while in some countries their role may simply be restricted to monitoring, with apprehension and prosecution roles mandated to other actors such as the police. The project will map out various enforcement

² For example, the core conservation principles for restoring and maintaining viable snow leopard populations developed by the Snow Leopard Network

mechanisms (regulations, monitoring, apprehending, and prosecution) from the range countries, analyze these in terms of what works and what does not and provide recommendations to improve wildlife crime management effectiveness through a multi-agency approach. The training strategy and materials developed based on this analysis will improve capacity for wildlife protection agencies. The new model will be piloted in at least one selected site (to be confirmed during PPG phase) in a range country. The project will explore collaboration with key partners such as INTERPOL and TRAFFIC to benefit from the immense experience with environmental crime enforcement.

Component 2: Global and national monitoring framework: This component aims to support the development of an appropriate national and global monitoring framework that will be primarily focussed on monitoring mechanisms for the transboundary landscapes. Complementing the nascent efforts currently underway by all the range countries, the project will support mapping of at least 4 transboundary snow leopard landscapes. The mapping initiative will employ appropriate technologies such as GIS / Remote Sensing and will be based on national and international geo-spatial information. It will also strive for reasonable estimation of snow leopard populations in the four landscapes using available scientific estimation methods and also carry out a comprehensive enumeration and analysis of various threats that are common across the transboundary landscapes. Information generated will be categorised according to actual spatial coverage, health status of habitats and type and level of threats. This will be made available to concerned range countries and made use of to inform national and global management decisions to address landscape level stressors and guide strategic planning and evaluation of snow leopard conservation strategies, implemented at national and global levels. Likewise, there are on-going efforts to collaboratively develop common monitoring indicators and methods including plans to establish a mechanism for periodic data sharing. The project will complement these efforts by developing a common set of monitoring indicators for snow leopard habitats, prey species and different threats. These will be tested and finalised based on feedback from range countries and partners. Furthermore, the project will support the development of an appropriate and effective standard monitoring framework and system for assessing habitat quality and SL population that will be based on set of key monitoring indicators developed by the project (and other related initiatives). This will feed directly into the monitoring functions at the levels of snow leopard global Steering Committee and landscape levels and also serve as inputs into elaboration of landscape level management plans.

Component 3: Ensuring sustainability of SL conservation: This component is focussed on fostering an effective, coherent strategy for partnership including establishing platforms for engagement with the private sector that ensure enhanced support and leverage increased resources for snow leopard conservation actions at national and global levels. In collaboration with the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) partners, the project will design and put in place an appropriate multi-partner coordination mechanism that will bring together all partner organisations (donors, NGOs, multilateral agencies and private sector), so as to provide a coherent approach to support on key aspects such as provision of dedicated technical support to range countries and knowledge sharing. Importantly, such a mechanism will serve to leverage additional financial resources that are necessary to ensure the sustainability of global and national actions on snow leopard conservation. The project will also facilitate organisation of donor coordination and multi-stakeholder consultations (including range countries, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, private sector) , leading to developing long term strategy and commitment to mobilize resources to implement GSLEP and NSLEP actions. In addition, guidelines on integrated financing strategies for implementing NSLEPs, considering resource mobilization from a range of sources including government budgetary resources, official donor assistance, private sector and other innovative funding mechanisms (e.g. PES, conservation bonds, bio-diversity offsets etc.) will be developed and made available to range countries. An important output under this component will be the establishment of dialogue platforms at both national and global levels to engage with the private companies that are working in or make use of resources from the snow leopard range, such as mining companies, tourism companies, and pharmaceutical companies. Topical discussions on the links between snow leopard landscapes and ecosystems and private sector operations will be facilitated, in tandem with efforts to explore opportunities for private companies to identify and adopt measures that reduce negative impacts on snow leopard ecosystems. The increased interest generated, besides changing practices to reduce impacts, will also result in increased resource flows from the private sector to snow leopard conservation actions at national and global levels.

Incremental reasoning: Without an investment in targeted support to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program, the efforts of the 12 range states to address high mountain development issues, conserve these fragile ecosystems and maintain healthy wildlife populations, including those of the snow leopard, are likely to be guided primarily by local and national development objectives, including poverty alleviation and adaptation to climate change, as well as national biodiversity strategies. While these national-level initiatives would be the key to secure snow leopard population and its ecosystem, effective conservation of snow leopard landscapes to include habitats for viable populations also requires a larger transboundary scale in order to be effective, and to realise global environmental benefits from protecting this apex species, and

its role in ecosystems that support hundreds of important species of fauna and flora, including important breeding populations of several rare and threatened mammals outlined below. A transboundary approach that enables knowledge generation and sharing across transboundary landscapes, combined with a monitoring framework implemented at national, transboundary ecosystem and global scales, and supported by a sustainable financing strategy, will be able to deliver additional global environmental benefits which would not otherwise have flowed from isolated and fragmented national and sub-national efforts.

Global environmental benefits: The project will result in a number of global benefits. First, the project will directly result in securing at least 4 transboundary snow leopard landscapes covering an area to be confirmed during the PPG phase, while indirectly the project will benefit all 20 priority snow leopard landscapes identified as part of the GSLEP actions. These efforts will ensure that viable population of the endangered snow leopard species is secured. The snow leopards exist in globally recognized important biodiversity areas/regions, including Key Biodiversity Areas, Ecoregions, and Hotspots. The 20 priority landscapes all fall under all or one of these internationally recognized regions of global significance. Securing the habitat and landscapes for snow leopards also means that several hundred important species in the region will benefit. This protection will also secure important breeding populations of several rare and threatened species found in the snow leopard landscapes that will also benefit from secure and protected ecosystems include Red panda, Musk deer, Makhor, Siberian ibex, Marco polo sheep, Blue sheep, Brown bear, Asiatic black bear etc. Likewise, there are a number of globally significant and well-known Protected Areas that will see increased management effectiveness and considerable threat reduction, across the 12 range states including Chitral National Park (Pakistan), Sagarmatha NP (Nepal), Annapurna Conservation Area (Nepal), Sarychat-Ertash State Nature Reserve (Kyrgyzstan). Besides this, these landscapes are important parts of the flyways for bird migration of common crane, steppe eagle, waterfowl and other species, with the valleys and lakes in the region as key corridors for these migrations. Furthermore, the snow leopard's habitat also provides important resources for the many people who live there – from food and medicine to wood for shelter, heat and fuel. So securing and protecting the snow leopard landscapes will guarantee sustained ecosystem services from these landscapes.

Innovativeness and sustainability: The project is designed to equip a diverse set of personnel including wildlife authorities, protected area managers and other concerned staff with the skills, techniques and knowledge required for implementing an adaptive snow leopard landscape management approach in both individual countries but importantly across countries in transboundary snow leopard landscapes. In this way, the project will right from the beginning proactively motivate cooperation at different levels – local, regional and global levels and also with multiple partners from several institutions. The focus on transboundary landscapes is important and innovative in that the project recognizes the importance of sharing information to address threats that span or originate from beyond a single landscape boundary, especially combating wildlife crime. Besides, the project will also provide an important forum for sharing and collaboration that is critical for conservation across landscapes. Further, mapping various existing enforcement models to develop an internally generated multi-agency model for combatting wildlife crime enforcement in this context is innovative. This will be complemented by activities aimed at mapping of the landscapes using geo-spatial information and technology – while this may prove to be complex and difficult, sharing geo-spatial information and technology among countries to address local level and transboundary threats is another innovation. While the on-site demonstration will be beyond the scope of the project, the guidelines and tools developed for landscape level conservation management planning will, among other things, recommend moving away from a PA-centric approach to address and contain threats both within and outside PAs. Recommendations for establishing PAs will enlist use of models of PA management by non-government actors such as community conserved areas, reserves managed by private entities, and indigenous protected areas. These will be more cost effective and engender a higher level of ownership and stewardship among local communities and other stakeholders.

Sustainability of the project's interventions will be promoted through a mix of strategies, principally building on the development of a strong appreciation among range countries and concerned government institutions of the importance of managing a mix of national and transboundary landscapes to secure the long-term survival of the snow leopard and the sustainability of the ecosystem in which it plays a key role (together with the associated economic and social benefits that snow leopard landscapes provide). The actual implementation of the project will coincide with a much stronger and renewed commitment of range countries in implementing their individual NSLEPs – this is expected to generate further support and possibly additional resource leverage opportunities. The project will be proactive in exploring sustainability in the design and implementation of all its outputs. For instance, the development of the guidelines and tools will be carried out in collaboration with national wildlife training institutes (e.g. WII) or regional institutes (e.g. ICIMOD), so that these materials and associated trainings can be made available to interested range countries after the project.

Indigenous Peoples and women play a primary and important role in natural resource management in many of the snow leopard landscapes. During the PPG a gender analysis will be carried out to identify different gender roles and responsibilities. In the design of activities, it will include a focus on gender equity and will promote gender-sensitivity during the implementation of project activities – for example, change in access to firewood from a nearby forest would impact on women differently than men, as women are typically responsible for gathering firewood and productive home activities. In addition, the project will ensure participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and disadvantaged groups in the PPG consultations so that their land tenure, access rights, and other cultural and livelihood issues are not adversely affected. An appropriate stakeholder involvement plan will be developed to ensure adequate consideration of these issues.

A2. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organisations, indigenous people, gender groups, and others as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project preparation:

Detail institutional arrangement of the project will be determined as part of the PPG implementation, in consultation with key stakeholders, including those that are involved in snow leopard and its landscape conservation as listed below:

| Stakeholders | Engagement in project preparation and implementation |
|------------------------------|---|
| Snow leopard range countries | The 12 range countries are the primary stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project. Countries will be invited to participate to discuss project plans, review progress and provide any other inputs as may be necessary. This may be achieved either remotely through electronic communication or obtained face to face at where possibilities to do so are presented by piggy-backing on planned global events (of GLSEP or other global events) where many of the range countries are expected to participate. In addition appropriate representation of the range country will be considered at the project board (details to be further clarified during the PPG) |
| Working/Program Secretariat, | The key terms of reference of the Working (Program) Secretariat are to: conduct annual program consultations with all the range countries, donors and partners to review progress; organise periodic consultations to map flow and utilization of funds, review funding situation and coordinate energies at filling key gaps; conduct thematic and technical consultations on specific elements of the program to facilitate knowledge exchange, adoption of good practices, cross-sectoral engagement and coordination, and support leadership. The Program Secretariat will be represented on the project board to ensure close coordination of the initiatives. |
| GTI / World Bank | Launched in 2008, the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) is a global alliance of governments, international organizations, civil society, the conservation and scientific community, and the private sector committed to working together toward a common agenda to save wild tigers from extinction. The GTI assists the 13 tiger range countries to carry out their conservation strategies and drive the global tiger conservation agenda, through planning, coordination, and continuous communication. At the request of the host government of the GSLEP, Kyrgyzstan, GTI is performing similar functions by accompanying the new working (Programme) secretariat in planning and conducting its operations. The project will work closely for the preparation of the MSP. |
| WBI | The World Bank Institute (WBI) is one of the Bank’s main instruments for developing individual, organizational, and institutional capacity through the exchange of knowledge among those countries. It designs and delivers learning programs that create opportunities for development stakeholders to acquire, share, and apply global and local knowledge and experiences. In the case of the GSLEP, the WBI delivers leadership trainings similar to those offered as part of the GTI. The project will liaise, as may be appropriate with WBI in the design of capacity building activities including trainings and development of tools and guidelines. |
| WCS | Founded, 1895, the Wildlife Conservation Society has the clear mission to save wildlife and wild places across the globe. WCS is currently engaged in managing about 500 conservation projects in more than 60 countries. Together with other international NGOs, WCS will be a key stakeholder in further developing the project. |
| WWF | WWF is the world’s leading international conservation organization and works in over 100. WWF’s unique way of working combines global reach with a foundation in science, involves action at every level from local to global, and ensures the delivery of innovative solutions that meet the needs of both people and nature. WWF is a key stakeholder and will be a key co-financier for the project. |
| Snow Leopard Trust | The Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) has partners and staff members in China, India, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, and Pakistan as well as in the United States (in Seattle, where our headquarters are located) and Sweden. The SLT builds community partnerships by using sound science to determine priorities for protecting the endangered snow leopard. SLT is a key international NGO working on snow leopard conservation. The project will work closely for further preparation of the MSP and they are also identified as key co-financing partner for the project. |
| Snow Leopard Network | The Snow Leopard Network (SLN) is a worldwide organization dedicated to facilitating the exchange of information between individuals around the world for the purpose of snow leopard conservation. Its main goal is to implement the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy (SLSS), which offers a comprehensive analysis of the issues facing snow leopard conservation today. The SLN also maintains a Snow Leopard Bibliography, which provides members |

| Stakeholders | Engagement in project preparation and implementation |
|--|---|
| | with access to scholarly articles on snow leopards and related issues. SLN will be a key NGO stakeholder. |
| Snow Leopard Conservancy | Snow Leopard Conservancy (SNC) works on advancing community-based stewardship of the snow leopard through education, research and grassroots conservation action. SLC creates innovative, highly participatory, self-governing community-based conservation programs that serve as models for others, while simultaneously building in-country capacity of individuals and organizations for snow leopard conservation, research and education. SLC will be a key stakeholder |
| Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union | Founded in 1899, Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), is one of the oldest and largest environment associations in Germany committed to the conservation of threatened habitats, flora and fauna, to climate protection and energy policy. NABU's main objectives are the preservation of habitats and biodiversity, the promotion of sustainability in agriculture, forest management and water supply and distribution, as well as to enhance the significance of nature conservation in our society. Is a primary funder of GSLEP activities, will provide co-financing. |
| WildCRU | WildCRU is part of the University of Oxford, within the Department of Zoology. Founded in 1986, WildCRU was the first university-based conservation research unit. The project will explore collaboration with WildCRU in the design of specific outputs that would likely benefit from the scientific and research experience of the former. |
| US-AID | USAID is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential. USAID currently funds snow leopard conservation activities implemented by WWF. US-AID is recognized as core donors for the GSLEP and will be an important stakeholder of the proposed project. |
| INTERPOL | The INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme: leads global and regional operations to dismantle the criminal networks behind environmental crime using intelligence-driven policing; coordinates and develops international law enforcement best practice manuals, guides and other resources; provides environmental law enforcement agencies with access to our services by enhancing their links with INTERPOL National Central Bureaus. The INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group, Pollution Crime Working Group and Fisheries Crime Working Group bring together criminal investigators from around the world to share information and initiate targeted projects to tackle specific areas of environmental crime. The project will explore working with or using models developed by INTERPOL in the delivery of outputs related to wildlife law enforcement. |
| TRAFFIC | TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The project will explore opportunities to work with on specific outputs related to wildlife law enforcement and information sharing. |
| CITES | CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level. |
| Local communities | Local communities in the 4 landscapes will be important beneficiaries and stakeholders of the project. Participation of local communities is central to ensuring the sustainability of conservation outcomes. Further care should be taken to make sure that no harm is done to local communities as a result of the project. During the PPG process, meaningful participation of the local communities through consultations will be ensured so that project interventions do not adversely impact local communities' lives and livelihoods. |

A3. Risk. Indicate risks propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

| Risk | Rating | Management Strategy |
|--|---------------|---|
| Limited capacity within Wildlife agencies in the concerned range countries may limit or delay project implementation and / or completion | Low | One of the primary strategies of the project is to enhance staff and institutional capacities by building on existing capacities and related initiatives such as the leadership development led by the World Bank Institute. In addition, the project will engage relevant staff and institutions in all relevant activities, for example in the mapping of transboundary landscapes, compilation and analysis of best practices on sustainable management of land and natural resources in transboundary landscapes etc. |
| Disagreements among range countries on selection of transboundary landscapes may delay delivery of related outputs | Low to medium | As part of the GSLEP's action plan to advance on the implementation of the programme, discussions on the identification of the 20 landscapes including transboundary ones have already begun. These discussions are conducted in a fully consultative process with decisions made on a consensus basis. |

| Risk | Rating | Management Strategy |
|---|--------|--|
| Mixed reactions from wild life authorities affect uptake of the guidelines | Low | While some personnel in individual range countries may see the guidelines and tools developed by the project, as yet another such set, that are not proactively applied nor support and follow-up provided to ensure that they are used, the project will undertake measures such as developing appropriate communication materials, designing trainings materials (including incorporating feedback) to make tools and guidelines applicable to most range country situations, acceptable and easy to use. |
| Governments may perceive the project as duplicating efforts under the GSLEP programme | Medium | This project strives to complement the efforts under the GSLEP global core program's effort to coordinate both national and global snow leopard conservation actions. It does so by providing global 'glue' that links national and global actions – from identifying landscapes, designing actions, monitoring and knowledge sharing. All efforts will be made to ensure that range countries understand the links, complementariness and value this project provides. |
| Climate change may acerbate the existing threats while also directly impacts the fragile snow leopard ecosystem thereby adversely affecting conservation dividends achieved by the project in the long term | Medium | With climate change and global warming, plants and trees that are not able to survive in cooler temperatures are expected to move higher up the mountains. This will push the treeline upwards and result in reduction of the amount of alpine habitat further up, thereby shifting, shrinking and fragmenting snow leopard habitat. The project's approach of moving away from a PA centric approach to secure SL landscapes will establish a network of PAs surrounded by a mosaic of sustainably managed production landscapes. This will ensure connectivity and provide safeguard against the undesired effects of climate change by allowing biodiversity to alter distribution patterns in response to climate change effects naturally and without resulting in fragmentation of habitats. |

A4. Coordination, Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives:

There are several GEF financed biodiversity conservation projects in snow leopard landscapes and ecosystems, the majority of which are implemented by UNDP. Annex 1 lists these initiatives and also explains the links between those project and snow leopard ecosystem protection. The proposed project will coordinate with these projects and seek opportunities to improve synergies between them and the current project. Efforts will also be made to cross fertilize good practices between these initiatives and the proposed project. For example, the “Improving the coverage and management effectiveness of PAs in the Central Tian Shan Mountains” will increase representation of snow leopard habitats in the PA system while also ensuring that land use is regulated in the buffer zones and corridors. This project will also implement anti-poaching and patrolling to improve enforcement. Lessons from the implementation of this project will inform the design of related outputs on transboundary landscape management and improving enforcement mechanism. Likewise, the Afghanistan “Establishing integrated models of protected area management and their co-management in Afghanistan” will secure snow leopard landscapes in the Wakhan Corridor and the Pamir landscape as part of the project's objective to establish a national system of protected areas in the country.

B DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

BI. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.

This project will directly assist snow leopard range countries to meet their obligations under the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and specifically relates to the following Strategic goals and targets:

| | |
|--|--|
| Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society | Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits. |
| Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use | Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. |
| Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity | Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and |

| | |
|--|--|
| Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services | <p>integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p> <p>Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p> <p>Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p> |
|--|--|

In addition, the project will also advance actions that the countries committed to implement as part of their National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection (NSLEPs), prepared to address key threats at the national level to snow leopard ecosystems while enhancing capacity of national institutions for research and knowledge generation, increasing awareness among policy makers and local communities on the importance of snow leopard ecosystems, and securing snow leopard landscapes.

B.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:

The project is aligned with the first Strategic Objective in the GEF 5 Biodiversity Focal Area: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems, and contributes to two outcomes: 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas and 1.2: Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management. The project will bring under direct protection an area of transboundary snow leopard landscapes to be confirmed during the PPG phase. It will enable an enhanced understanding of approaches and tools required to address key gaps for successful transboundary snow leopard landscape management and protection. This the project will do through generation of knowledge and information that will be shared through an appropriate and effective sharing mechanism. The project will diversify funding streams to sustain action of the GSLEP programme to close the funding gap, by identifying and developing appropriate and innovative fiscal mechanisms. The project will also develop an appropriate national and global monitoring framework focussed on transboundary landscapes.

B.3 The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage for implementing this project:

As the development arm of the United Nations, UNDP has the comparative advantage in being adequately equipped to address challenges of both environmental conservation and sustainable development. A large portfolio of biodiversity conservation projects managed by UNDP and financed by the GEF exists in the 12 range countries. Protected area management, planning and financing are core to UNDP’s work in these countries and globally. UNDP will bring experience from these projects to bear under the proposed project. In addition, the project will contribute to addressing the broad strategic objective of UNDP’s Biodiversity Global Framework, to "Maintain and enhance the goods and services provided by biodiversity and ecosystems in order to secure livelihoods, food, water and health, enhance resilience, conserve threatened species and their habitats, and increase carbon storage and sequestration." UNDP is the implementing agency for the majority of current GEF investment in snow leopard conservation totally 18 projects with an approximate value of around US\$ 55 million. Finally the present project will benefit from coordination capabilities at the local level from UNDP’s presence on the ground through its country offices in all the range countries including the strong Country Office in Kyrgyzstan, where the Working Secretariat of the GSLEP is located.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

(Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template.

| NAME | POSITION | MINISTRY | DATE (MM/dd/yyyy) |
|----------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| N/A (Global Project) | | | |

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.

| Agency Coordinator, Agency name | Signature | DATE (MM/dd/yyyy) | Project Contact Person | Telephone | Email Address |
|---|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Adriana Dinu UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator and Director a.i |  | June 11, 2014 | Doley Tshering Regional Technical Advisor for Ecosystems and Biodiversity, UNDP | +66-2-304- 9100 Ext 2600 | doley.tshering@undp.org |

Annex I: GEF financed UNDP implemented projects with impact for Snow Leopard conservation

| Projects | Duration | GEF, US\$ | Impacts for SL conservation |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|
| Kyrgyzstan | | | |
| Improving the coverage and management effectiveness of PAs in the Central Tian Shan Mountains | 2013-2016 | 1,000,000 | <p>Stated project objectives are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representation of SL habitat in the PA system up from c. 20% to 48% (187,000 ha Khan Tengri PA – SL habitat) - buffer zones for Khan Tengri and wildlife corridors between Khan Tengri and Sarychat-Ertash NR where land use is to be regulated - Anti-poaching mechanisms - Improved patrolling and surveillance capacities of PAs |
| Tajikistan | | | |
| Demonstrating new approaches to Protected Areas and Biodiversity Management in the Gissar Mountains as a model for strengthening the national Tajikistan Protected Areas System | 2006-2012 | 1,000,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added 3,100 ha of SL habitat into PA estate in Gissar Mountains. - Strengthened monitoring and enforcement capacities of PAs at 28,100 ha of SL habitat - Revised Law on Protected areas (approved by Parliament in Dec 2011) introducing restrictions on economic use in buffer zones and corridors - Mapped SL habitat in key PAs, trained PA in GIS-based monitoring |
| Kazakhstan | | | |
| Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity of the Kazakhstani Sector of the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion | 2007-2011 | 2,420,700 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added or expanded protected areas in SL habitat (PAs set up and management plans designed and launched): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ontustyk Altay Zakaznik 197,623 ha – new PA o ecological corridor of 379,800 ha connecting key SL habitats in Altai Sayan mountains o Markakol Zapovednik expanded by 27,931 ha - SL monitoring system (camera traps) in Altai Sayan set up, equipped and PA personnel trained - Anti-poaching campaigns and public awareness raising (including - book “IRBIS – the snow leopard”) for public distribution. |
| <i>In Situ</i> Conservation of Kazakhstan’s Mountain Agrobiodiversity | 2007-2011 | 3,022,967 | <p>New PA in SL habitat: Jongar-Alatau State National Nature Park: 356,022 ha Expansion of Ile Alatau National park from 236,000 ha to 271,403 ha (increase by 35,403 ha) in SL habitat</p> |
| Uzbekistan | | | |
| Strengthening Sustainability of the National Protected Area System by Focusing on Strictly Protected Areas | 2008-2013 | 1,000,000 | <p>Feasibility studies and legal papers prepared for 3 new PAs in SL habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o South Eastern Gissar: 683,771 ha o Upper Pskema River.: 212,125 ha o Chatkalski zapovednik (proposed extension by 16,474 ha) |
| Russia | | | |
| Biodiversity Conservation in the Russian Portion of the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion | 2007-2011 | 3,515,000 | <p>1,317,372 ha of new PAs created in SL habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Nature Park Ergaki - Regional Nature Park Quiet zone Ukok - Regional Zakaznik (Sanctuary) Tokhtai - Regional Zakaznik (Sanctuary) Gagul Kotlovina - State National Park Sailugem - Regional Nature Park Taiga - Federal Zakaznik (Sanctuary) Pozarym - Regional Nature Park Shuiskiy - Regional Nature Park Ak-Cholushpa |

| Projects | Duration | GEF, US\$ | Impacts for SL conservation |
|---|------------------|------------------|--|
| | | | <p>2,155,075 ha of existing PAs strengthened to support critical habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State Biosphere Reserve Katunskiy - State Biosphere Nature Reserve Altaiskiy - State Nature Reserve Khakasskiy - State Nature Biosphere Reserve Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina - State Nature Biosphere Reserve Sayano-Shushenskiy - Regional Nature Park Belukha - Regional Nature Park Argut <p>Interagency anti-poaching brigades formed, equipped and trained to cope better with the increasing poaching; the number of anti-poaching raids increased significantly, and the registration of infringements, incl., Snow Leopard killing cases dropped. Anti-trafficking actions were organised in the border areas with Mongolia. As a result of repeated actions performed by Criminal Investigation officials and customs officers, the sellers of snow leopard skins and skulls were identified, pled guilty and got accused under the Criminal Code.</p> <p>Awareness campaign for herders. Avoiding conflicts between herders and the Snow Leopard is critical for the species conservation. The UNDP/GEF project supported workshops and other awareness tools for local herders so that they would learn the snow leopard behaviour and habits, the global significance of the species and its status, and the reasons why it would attack livestock. The project also published booklets on how to protect livestock shades from snow leopard attacks.</p> <p>Snow Leopard monitoring programme. Specific behaviour of the species, its extreme cautiousness and secrecy creates problems for study and protection of this endangered species. However, there are new methods of collecting and analyzing data on population and behaviour of the snow leopard, which should solve the problem. The UNDP/GEF Project provided opportunities for Mongolian experts to share snow leopard monitoring experience with Russian and Kazakh colleagues. In 2009, the Project published a national Snow Leopard Monitoring Programme developed for PA rangers and experts of the federal and regional agencies conserving and monitoring the species nationwide. Russian Monitoring Programme for Snow Leopard (http://altai_sayan.org/about/publications.php) includes field population census and habitat mapping and was developed on the basis of several years' research supported by the Project.</p> |
| Bhutan | | | |
| <p>Linking and Enhancing Protected Areas in the Temperate Broadleaf Forest Ecoregion of Bhutan (LINKPA)</p> | <p>2003-2008</p> | <p>792,000</p> | <p>Strengthened PA in SL habitat: 135,129 ha Thrumshingla National Park (78,461 ha) and its biological corridors (56,669 ha). Park boundary extended to include a wilderness area 90,503 ha</p> <p>Strengthened monitoring and enforcement capacities of the PA and the corridor, as well legal establishment and protection of the new biological corridors with management plan and regulatory framework.</p> <p>Improvement in livelihoods of the park residents and adjoining local communities, reducing the frequency of environmentally damaging activities.</p> |
| Mongolia | | | |
| <p>Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Altai-Sayan Eco-Region of Mongolia</p> | <p>2006-2011</p> | <p>2,720,000</p> | <p>12 PAs covering 7,971,829 ha have been established by the project</p> <p>Six PAs covering 1,572,340 ha have been strengthened (Development of PA management plans, transboundary area management plan, and PA management equipment support, boundary extension):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ulaan taiga Strictly Protected Area (SPA) - Tsagaan shuvuut mountain SPA - Khoridol Saridag mountain SPA - Myangan Ugalzat National Park - Altai Tavan Bogd National Park - Khokh Serkh National Park |

| Projects | Duration | GEF, US\$ | Impacts for SL conservation |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | <p>Trans-boundary cooperation agreement and a joint management plan between the adjoining Uvs Nuur PA (Mongolia) and Nuurskay Kotlovina (Russia).</p> <p>A cooperation agreement was also signed between the Khovd Aimag and the Altai Province, in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China.</p> <p>513,500 ha of land is now officially managed by herder groups, including conducting wildlife monitoring, and benefit from pasture improvement in the area. 58 communities now have an adopted community plan and established a community fund.</p> |
| Ecosystem Based Adaptation Approach to Maintaining Water Security in Critical Water Catchments - Adaptation Fund | Just started, 6 years | 5,500,000 (Adaptation Fund) | <p>Strengthened management of Kharhiraa/Turgen Watersheds in Altai Ecoregion (530,000 ha)</p> <p>It aims to support the government and local communities to maintain the water provisioning services supplied by mountain and steppe ecosystems by internalising climate change risks within land and water resource management regimes. One of the two demonstration watershed in the Altai region is within the SL range.</p> <p>The project supports integration of ecosystem resilience into land use and water resource planning and management at the landscape level. It supports practicing of evidence-based decision making through improved knowledge and understanding on ecosystem dynamics and resilience and impact of different land uses. The project also supports community action to implement EBA principles and practices for long-term sustenance of their livelihoods. All these will contribute to maintaining SL habitats in the target site and beyond.</p> |
| Strengthening of the Protected Area Network in Mongolia (SPAN) | 2010-2015 | 1,363,630 | <p>Strengthened Orkhon Valley National Park (92,957 ha) and the Ikh Nart Nature Reserve (43,740 ha)</p> <p>Strengthening financial sustainability and management effectiveness of the PAs. Support includes: PA system financing plan development and implementation. PA management plan developments, training and equipment for enhanced enforcement capacity, development of new financing mechanisms at site levels; co-management at site level.</p> |
| China | | | |

| Projects | Duration | GEF, US\$ | Impacts for SL conservation |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| Strengthening the effectiveness of the protected area system in Qinghai Province, China to conserve globally important biodiversity | 2012-2018 | 5,354,545 | <p>The project strengthens Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve - 15,230,000 ha.</p> <p>Envisaged support includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of area and species management development of local co-management agreements at the community sites, with joint PA or natural resource governance and management systems ; Emplacement of monitoring and adaptive resource management system, including; (i) establishment of an ecological monitoring system in SNNR based on a review of relevant existing data; (ii) selection of a data to be monitored for climate change and species adaptation; (iii) training of PA field staff and community co-managers on data collection, record keeping and reporting; (iv) development of guidelines for monitoring data collection; (iv) development of a network of community-based monitoring system in conjunction with expansion of successful co-management models; (vi) management infrastructure development including community guard posts; (vii) procurement of necessary equipment including development of a maintenance plan and training of NR staff and community members on equipment use. Piloting of eco-compensation schemes in demonstration areas for the reduction of biodiversity threats: (i) development of direct and systematic linkage between the grassland eco-compensation funds (and other potential co-financing mechanisms) and strengthening of SNNR management effectiveness (including new staff salaries); (ii) revitalisation of traditional knowledge on grassland management; (iii) deployment of eco-compensation schemes to motivate adoption of suitable sustainable use level thresholds and on-going participation in PA activities within target communities |
| Strengthening the management effectiveness of protected areas in Altai Mountains and Wetlands Landscape in Xinjiang Autonomous Region | Just started, 5 years | 2,654,771 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project will aim at improved management and financing of the Altai Mountains and Wetland Landscape (AMWL) PA Cluster covering 568,900 ha - Liangheyuan National Nature Reserve (NR), Buergen Beaver NR, Kanas National NR, Kekesu Wetland Provincial NR, Ertix River Keketuohai Provincial NR and other smaller NRs - Envisaged expansion of the PA system in SL habitat by 150,000 ha |
| Nepal | | | |
| Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal | 1993-1998 | 3,800,000 | The project had the twin objective of developing the National Biodiversity Action Plan and implementing key elements of this plan in the 233, 000 ha Makalu-Barun National Park and Conservation Area (MBNPCA) and the 1,14800 ha of Sagarmatha National Park where the majority of snow leopards are found. In addition to improving management effectiveness of these two Pas, the project also supported greater participation of local communities in PA management through formation of resource user groups, and supporting community level small scale enterprises. |
| Pakistan | | | |
| Mountain Areas Conservancy Project including the (PRIF) Maintaining Biological Diversity in Pakistan With Rural Community Development phase | 1999-2006 | 10,600,000 | Implemented in the previously called the Northwest Frontier Areas and the Northern Areas, it encompassed snow leopard areas such as Kyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan. The project's primary contribution was in utilizing the approach of conservancies (a highly innovative approach then) as a vehicle for empowering and organizing local communities to conserve biodiversity. It also introduced trophy hunting as a biodiversity conservation measure and also as an effective mechanism for increasing local communities' income. |
| Mountains and Markets – Biodiversity and Business in Northern Pakistan | 2012-2016 | 1,793,182 | The project builds on the success of the MACP. It will focus on areas where trophy hunting is not feasible and aim to create market demand for and strengthen capacities of local communities to manage and market biodiversity friendly NTFP enterprises. The project will also secure sustainable resource use |

| Projects | Duration | GEF, US\$ | Impacts for SL conservation |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | agreements with local communities ensuring that critical biodiversity resources are protected. |
| Afghanistan | | | |
| Establishing integrated models of protected area management and their co-management in Afghanistan | Under development | 6,441,819 | The project's objective is to establish a national system of protected areas to conserve biodiversity and mitigate land degradation pressures on habitats in key biodiversity areas. The target areas also include the Pamir mountains a prime snow leopard habitat. In tandem with making operational the national PA system, in the pilot sites, the project will also improve institutional and technical capacities for PA site management while also improving land management to reduce threats to PAs from land degradation. |
| TOTAL INVESTMENT related to SL | | 52,978,000 | |