

## CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

<b>Organization's Legal Name:</b>	Zoi Environment Network
<b>Project Title:</b>	Supporting effective safeguards at corridor-level in the era of infrastructure boom in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan
<b>Grant Number:</b>	CEPF-110755
<b>Hotspot:</b>	Mountains of Central Asia
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	5 Enhance civil society capacity for effective conservation action
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$149,720.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	January 01, 2021 - June 30, 2022
<b>Date of Report:</b>	July 05, 2022

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

Osh Aarhus Centre – main implementation partner in Kyrgyzstan: strong complementarity with Zoi activities and interests, long experience of working together, strong competence and excellent knowledge of environmental and biodiversity issues in central-southern Kyrgyzstan

Eco MiR – supporting implementation partner in Kyrgyzstan: group of activists, civil science promoters, ecological investigations and mapping skills

MAINS UNIT – main implementation partner in Uzbekistan: strong competence in environmental impact assessments, good knowledge of Espoo and other conventions, strong links with the private sector and state environmental authorities in Uzbekistan

Zarafshan – supporting implementation partner in Uzbekistan: group of activists and civil science promoters, focusing on the environmental and biodiversity safeguards in Zarafshan river and mountains

### CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
All large scale infrastructure investments will be subject to strong environmental safeguards, in particular with regards to protecting key biodiversity areas. This can be at the national	Longer term impacts would require continuation of the targeted interventions with support from CEPF and others

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>level, enhancing and compliance to national legislation, at the transboundary level, respecting international agreements, and, probably most effectively at the source (of finance, of project) level, adhering to effective standards both in China and internationally. Thus, by 2030 the entire volume of infrastructure investments (33 Billion USD, estimated by the Asian Development Bank) are expected to follow strict environmental safeguards. Translated to the CEPF engagement in the Mountains of Central Asia Hot Spot this means that all 28 priority KBAs with a surface of 53,000 square kilometres and the 5 priority corridors will profit from 'greener' infrastructure development.</p>	

Planned Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Successful implementation of the proposed activities and sustained CSO engagement will increase the application of safeguards and conservation provisions to large-scale infrastructure projects (road, railroad, pipeline construction; tourism development; mining) in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Our concrete target are improved environmental standards in 2 infrastructure projects (each one affecting one priority KBA), with investment volumes between 20 and 200 million USD impacting between 75,000 and 165,000 hectares of KBAs.</p>	<p>Estimated volume of investments 200 million USD and area 100 000 ha of KBAs and ecological corridors</p>
<p>Knowledge Generation: Increased public awareness and media interest on the impacts of infrastructure development in key biodiversity areas in Central Asia. There will be at least two pick-ups by larger national media (National newspaper, TV channels) in each of the countries of engagement Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as well as wide dissemination on social media.</p>	<p>At least 20 mass media and social meeting postings, including 1 TV and 8 national and local newspapers and official channels postings</p>
<p>Capacity Building: Increased capacity of trained CSOs/conservation practitioners to effectively engage with public and private stakeholders to apply best available safeguards to mitigated negative impacts of infrastructure development. The further dissemination of the CSO engagement manual - via social media channels and community-level environmental education campaigns, will reach a wider range</p>	<p>More than 20 NGOs and local community groups</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
of CSOs/communities on the ground through self- and peer-learning. Starting with the baseline of three champion CSOs enabled to apply the safeguard tools, at least 15 additional CSOs will be trained and enabled in using site safeguard tools and engage in EIA processes under the legally provided processes.	
Sustainable Network: A visible and active regional network for promoting environmental safeguards of infrastructure investments will be established with strong environmental safeguard practitioner networks in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, each country with at least 5 institutional members, Thus, together with the regional members, the network will be carried by at least 20 CSO organizations.	At least 20 CSOs participate in networking
Knowledge Generation: The project will map the connections between infrastructure development and conservation in the two corridors, compile the available environmental and social safeguarding standards and synthesize this knowledge in a toolkit for CSOs in the regions. Beyond the three champion organizations, the tool will be used by at least 15 CSOs in the region and before / after knowledge will be measurable in the two case study areas (affecting two KBAs)	In addition to 3 champion organizations - Osh Aarhus Centre (KRG), Eco-MiR (KRG) and MAINS UNIT (UZB), more than 20 CSOs were trained and are willing to use the toolkit and other information products. Chatkal and Alai valleys in Kyrgyzstan, and Zarafshan and Chatkal river and mountains in Uzbekistan are the main areas for continued efforts.

**Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

Despite of intense information engagement and field actions, Zoi partners are reporting continued violations and undesirable practices in selected areas, and are asking for continued targeted interventions. More time and in-depth engagement will be required for behavioural and planning changes in mining and tourism projects. COVID-19 pandemic and strict border regime (especially in Dzhangaria, KAZ-CHI) affected project outreach at the local level and field activities.

**PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES**

**Overall results of the project:**

We trust that information products and new knowledge spread in the course of project implementation among participants and via mass- and social media will lead to a positive change in the short- and medium-term, and that local NGOs and activists will remain to be involved in watching and influencing decisions on KBAs and infrastructure. Project directly informed and involved over 200 representatives from businesses, non-governmental and governmental organisations, and local communities – jamoats in Kyrgyzstan and mahallas in Uzbekistan, as well as mass media outlets in 3 countries. Project activities in 2022 were aligned and integrated with the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 for greater political and public visibility. Types of infrastructure projects covered: road and pipeline construction, mining and extractive industries, tourism development, with

estimated volume of investments exceeding USD 200 million, and areas of KBAs and eco-corridors over 100 000 ha.

**Results for each deliverable:**

<b>Component</b>		<b>Deliverable</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Results for Deliverable</b>
1.0	Knowledge Generation. Map the connections between infrastructure development and conservation in the two corridors, compile the available environmental and social safeguarding standards and synthesize this knowledge in a toolkit for CSOs in the region.	1.1	Mapping the links and potential challenges between infrastructure development and KBAS in the Western Tien Shan Corridor	Accomplished, maps and analysis available in project reports and publications
1.0	Knowledge Generation. Map the connections between infrastructure development and conservation in the two corridors, compile the available environmental and social safeguarding standards and synthesize this knowledge in a toolkit for CSOs in the region.	1.2	Inventory of global, regional, and local safeguard standards, including legally binding agreements, banking standards and those from Chinese donors	Accomplished and available in project reports and publications
2.0	Capacity Building. Increased capacity of trained CSOs/conservation practitioners to effectively engage with public and private stakeholders to apply safeguards to	2.1	Report and documentation on the first regional CSO engagement webinar, including agenda, gender-disaggregated participant list, and summary notes	Synthesis report with summary notes for all project meetings and lists of participants and informed/consulted representatives is available in "Other Information"

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	mitigate negative impacts of infrastructure development on key biodiversity areas.		including decisions about the next steps	
3.0	Network creation and operation. Network for addressing safeguards in large infrastructure development in the Mountains of Central Asia established	3.1	Report on conceptual design, operational and branding guidelines of the regional and three national networks	Some information is available in the meeting reports (Almaty regional meeting, December 2021) and IMPACT report. Since no firm decisions were taken on network design and operations, no specific guidelines were elaborated, pending inputs from the potentially interested partners.
1.0	Knowledge Generation. Map the connections between infrastructure development and conservation in the two corridors, compile the available environmental and social safeguarding standards and synthesize this knowledge in a toolkit for CSOs in the region.	1.3	CSO safeguard and assessment toolkit available in English and Russian languages.	Accomplished and available in 8 languages: English, Russian, Chinese, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Turkmen, Uzbek, Tajik with detailed explanatory notes in Russian
1.0	Knowledge Generation. Map the connections between infrastructure development and conservation in the two corridors, compile the available environmental and social safeguarding standards and synthesize	1.4	Report documenting the dissemination, users and applications of the CSO toolkit: websites, social media, events	List of links and events for dissemination is uploaded in "Other Information". Briefly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KAZ Living Asia</li> <li>- UZB Samarkandski Vestnik, Gazeta Uz, official web-page of the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan</li> <li>- KRG: Jalalabad TV, Kogart.kg</li> <li>- project events in KAZ, KRG, UZB</li> </ul>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	this knowledge in a toolkit for CSOs in the region.			
2.0	Capacity Building. Increased capacity of trained CSOs/conservation practitioners to effectively engage with public and private stakeholders to apply safeguards to mitigate negative impacts of infrastructure development on key biodiversity areas.	2.2	Report and documentation on the first physical workshop for Kyrgyzstan, including agenda, gender-disaggregated participant list, and summary notes including decisions about the next steps	Synthesis report with summary notes for all project meetings and lists of participants and informed/consulted representatives is available in "Other Information"
2.0	Capacity Building. Increased capacity of trained CSOs/conservation practitioners to effectively engage with public and private stakeholders to apply safeguards to mitigate negative impacts of infrastructure development on key biodiversity areas.	2.3	Report and documentation on the regional workshop taking place in Kazakhstan focussing on media engagement, including agenda, gender-disaggregated participant list, and summary notes including decisions about the next steps.	Synthesis report with summary notes for all project meetings and lists of participants and informed/consulted representatives is available in "Other Information"
2.0	Capacity Building. Increased capacity of trained CSOs/conservation practitioners to effectively engage with public and private stakeholders to apply safeguards to	2.4	Report on Zoi participation from one regional conference presenting the work of this grant, including name and date of event, Zoi participant, presentation,	Synthesis report with summary notes for all project meetings and lists of participants and informed/consulted representatives is available in "Other Information". Briefly: - inputs to the sessions of CDB, UNECE Environment for Europe (tourism and infrastructure) and Espoo conventions

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	mitigate negative impacts of infrastructure development on key biodiversity areas.		and summary notes of next steps.	- input to the economic and environmental forum sessions of the OSCE
2.0	Capacity Building. Increased capacity of trained CSOs/conservation practitioners to effectively engage with public and private stakeholders to apply safeguards to mitigate negative impacts of infrastructure development on key biodiversity areas.	2.5	Summary report on project impacts and long-term sustainability	IMPACT report in ENG and RUS is available in "Other information" and Zoi web-site
3.0	Network creation and operation. Network for addressing safeguards in large infrastructure development in the Mountains of Central Asia established	3.2	Status report on Network establishment in the region, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan including member profile and list of activities	List of the potential members is available in the list of participants to project meetings and events. No formal decisions on network establishment and membership are made during the project duration, therefore member profiles and list of activities are not available. Zoi is not willing to artificially accelerate or make a network without its organic growth and composition: it may take time beyond the project duration.
4.0	Capacity Building of Zoï Environment Network and partners	4.1	Completion of baseline CEPF gender tracking tool	Done via CEPF website / XLS tool
4.0	Capacity Building of Zoï Environment Network and partners	4.2	Completion of final CEPF gender tracking tool	Done via CEPF website / XLS tool

**Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:**

Zoi produced many information products as part of the project – they are uploaded in “Other Information”. These include:

- promotional video (animation) on KBAs and infrastructure
- Toolkit on biodiversity safeguards: a visual compact version in 8 languages and a detailed note as supplement
- China’s BRI and overseas investment safeguards
- compact publications on request from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan: Red List explained, Chatkal nature reserve, national parks visitor brochures, mountain cartoons and posters
- themed maps and micro-website
- meeting presentations and brief reports

**PORTFOLIO INDICATORS**

<b>Portfolio Indicator Number</b>	<b>Portfolio Indicator Description</b>	<b>Expected Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Expected Contribution Description</b>	<b>Actual Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Actual Contribution Description</b>
3	2 initiatives launched with private sector stakeholders resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices	2	Improved environmental standards in 2 infrastructure projects (each one affecting one priority KBA), with investment volumes between 20 and 200 million USD impacting between 75,000 and 165,000 hectares of KBAs	4	Strong candidates (project duration is too short to see the results/evidence): tourism operators and associations in UZB Charvak-Chatkal area and KRG Karakol-Issyk Kul area, Kyrgyz road and mining associations and selected companies
4	10 land-use plans or land-use management practices incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation	2	Improved environmental standards in 2 infrastructure projects (each one affecting one priority KBA), with	2	Strong candidates (project duration is too short to see the results/evidence): master plans for tourism development in UZB Charvak-Chatkal area and

<b>Portfolio Indicator Number</b>	<b>Portfolio Indicator Description</b>	<b>Expected Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Expected Contribution Description</b>	<b>Actual Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Actual Contribution Description</b>
			investment volumes between 20 and 200 million USD impacting between 75,000 and 165,000 hectares of KBAs		conservation development plans for KRG Alai valley
5	5 partnerships and networks formed or strengthened among civil society, and with government and communities, to leverage complementary capacities and maximize impact in support of the ecosystem profile	1	Network for promoting environmental safeguards of infrastructure investments with strong environmental safeguard practitioner networks in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, each country with 5 institutional members plus 5 regional members (total = 20)	1	Names of organisations provided in "Other Information"
6	At least 20 local organizations receiving CEPF grants demonstrate improved organizational capacity	18	Starting with the baseline of three champion CSOs enabled to apply the safeguard tools, at least 15 additional CSOs will be trained and enabled in using site safeguard tools and engage in EIA processes under the legally provided processes.	20	Names of organisations provided in "Other Information"

<b>Portfolio Indicator Number</b>	<b>Portfolio Indicator Description</b>	<b>Expected Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Expected Contribution Description</b>	<b>Actual Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Actual Contribution Description</b>
2.1	Number of hectares of KBA with improved management	75,000	Improved environmental standards in 2 infrastructure projects (each one affecting one priority KBA), with investment volumes between 20 and 200 million USD impacting between 75,000 and 165,000 hectares of KBAs	100,000	We estimate that 100,000 ha area consisting of KBAs, candidate KBAs and eco-corridors influenced by the project
2.3	Number of KBAs without official protection status with improved management	2	Improved environmental standards in 2 infrastructure projects (each one affecting one priority KBA), with investment volumes between 20 and 200 million USD impacting between 75,000 and 165,000 hectares of KBAs	2	UZB Zaravshan national park and river (KBA candidate) and KRG Alai Valley
3.2	Number of local level land use plans that incorporate biodiversity conservation as a management objective	2	Improved environmental standards in 2 infrastructure projects (each one affecting one priority KBA), with investment volumes between 20 and 200	2	Strong candidates (project duration is too short to see the results/evidence): master plans for tourism development in UZB Charvak-Chatkal area and conservation development plans for KRG Alai valley

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
			million USD impacting between 75,000 and 165,000 hectares of KBAs		
3.3	Number of major development projects, sub-national plans, or national plans that incorporate biodiversity conservation as a management objective	2	Improved environmental standards in 2 infrastructure projects (each one affecting one priority KBA), with investment volumes between 20 and 200 million USD impacting between 75,000 and 165,000 hectares of KBAs	2	Strong candidates (project duration is too short to see the results/evidence): master plans for tourism development in UZB Charvak-Chatkal area and conservation development plans for KRG Alai valley
4.1	Number of private companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices	2	Improved environmental standards in 2 infrastructure projects (each one affecting one priority KBA), with investment volumes between 20 and 200 million USD impacting between 75,000 and 165,000 hectares of KBAs	4	Strong candidates (project duration is too short to see the results/evidence): tourism operators/associations and tourism zones in UZB Charvak-Chatkal and KRG Karakol-Issyk Kul regions, mining developers in KRG Chatkal, road and infrastructure developers in KRG Alai Valley
4.4	Number of KBAs or landscapes with site safeguard requirements that are incorporated into	2	Improved environmental standards in 2 infrastructure projects (each one	4	KBAs and landscapes: UZB Zarafshan national park and river: extraction and settlements, UZB Chatkal: tourism, KRG Chatkal:

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	development projects		affecting one priority KBA), with investment volumes between 20 and 200 million USD impacting between 75,000 and 165,000 hectares of KBAs		mining, KRG Alai Valley: roads and other infrastructure
4.5	Number of conservation issues of concern to civil society that are the subject of public debate	1	Increased public awareness and media interest on the impacts of infrastructure development in key biodiversity areas in Central Asia. There will be at least two pick-ups by larger national media (National newspaper, TV channels) in each of the countries o	5	Issues of concern and attention: Zarafshan national park and river, Chatkal Valley mining, road development and environmental safeguards, pollution and littering by tourism, International Year of Mountains 2022
5.1	Number of local organizations that demonstrate increased knowledge of international and regional conservation agreements and take steps to engage in action at the local level	18	Starting with the baseline of three champion CSOs enabled to apply the safeguard tools, at least 15 additional CSOs will be trained and enabled in using site safeguard tools and engage in EIA processes under the legally provided processes.	20	Names of organisations provided in "Other Information"

<b>Portfolio Indicator Number</b>	<b>Portfolio Indicator Description</b>	<b>Expected Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Expected Contribution Description</b>	<b>Actual Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Actual Contribution Description</b>
5.2	Number of regional thematic experience sharing events that allow for informal and formal networking in the hotspot	1	Regional safeguard event	1	Regional meeting in Almaty, KAZ, December 2021
5.3	Number of new networks or partnerships for conservation that are created and/or strengthened	1	Network for promoting environmental safeguards of infrastructure investments with strong environmental safeguard practitioner networks in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, each country with 5 institutional members plus 5 regional members (total = 20)	1	Network consists of local and national CSOs, in total over 20 members, cooperating on the geographic areas and topics of the common interest. Links with international networks under the UNECE Aarhus and Espoo conventions, Belt and Road Green coalition and Western Tien Shan WHS cooperation networks established or strengthened.
6.1	Number of local organizations that actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile	18	Starting with the baseline of three champion CSOs enabled to apply the safeguard tools, at least 15 additional CSOs will be trained and enabled in using site safeguard tools and engage in EIA processes under the	20	Names of organisations provided in "Other Information"

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
			legally provided processes.		
6.3	Number of local civil society organizations receiving grants that demonstrate improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues	1	Zoi	3	Part of CEPF grant allocated to Zoi, were used by local organizations as sub-grantees, who actively promoted gender issues and and youth involvement

## GLOBAL INDICATORS

### Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares)**	New Protected Hectares***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
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\*World Database of Protected Areas

\*\*If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

\*\*\* This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

## Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management

## Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention

## Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits

## Benefits to Communities

View the <b>characteristics</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the <b>benefits</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			

### Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

## Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the <b>topics</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P

**“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:**

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
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**Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices**

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
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**Networks and Partnerships**

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Eco-MiR: ecological monitoring and investigations and "Eco-Working" event	2022	Kyrgyzstan	Yes	Public ecological monitoring and investigations in Kyrgyzstan, further development of online interactive ecological maps of Kyrgyzstan, legal actions against environmental violations. CEPF-Zoi project activities inspired our Kyrgyz partners to

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
				establish a new NGO and lunch "eco-working" event (networking event involving majority of Kyrgyz environmental players, journalists, film makers, activists)
public environmental information centres (Aarhus centres, Espoo Convention promoters)	2022	Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Uzbekistan	No	Promote access, justice and participation of the public to environmental information, decision making (Aarhus Convention) and environmental impact assessments (Espoo Convention)
Zarafshan river and nature conservation	2022	Uzbekistan	No	Promotion of sustainable and responsible nature use in the Zaravshan river basin and mountains, with involvement of NGOs, eco-activists and local communities
Belt and Road Greening Coalition: Central Asia partners	2021	China;Kazakhstan;Kyrgyzstan;Uzbekistan	No	Belt and Road Initiative Green Coalition consists of international and national organization members. Zoi, as international member of the BRIGC shared information with Central Asia CSOs on the latest BRI environmental safeguards, explained and invited them to join BRIGC for accessing information and influencing decisions

## Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
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## Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

<b>Genus</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common Name (English)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Population Trend at Site</b>
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## LESSONS LEARNED

Modern infrastructure projects are developing fast and include multi-million investments, often with the high level political and business-backing. Local NGOs and international observers have limited capacity, experience or accessibility to participate in decision making and influencing environmental considerations, including concerns over biodiversity. International instruments - safeguards, conventions, guiding principles - provide options and opportunities for public participation. These options are not widely known or used in Central Asia. Project helped in knowledge dissemination among local communities, NGOs and protected areas and engage business actors - mining and road companies and associations, tourism operators and associations - to discuss issues of concerns, gaps in planning or conflicting regulations and decisions and pursue solutions. Stronger position of NGOs could be achieved through networking, collaborating with the international conventions and coalitions, and fact-based observations, reporting and transparency.

## SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Successes worth replicating:

- illustrated publications, infographics and animations in local languages
- investigative and assessment approaches, combining local and international sources, public consultations and fact-checking
- field workshops and themed round tables targeting specific geographic areas and economic sectors, gender-balanced participation
- balanced and neutral approach to the infrastructure projects and business actors (mining companies, associations, lobbying actors)
- flexible and demand-driven project approach: greater geographic coverage, adapting to COVID-19 and border regime restrictions
- engagement of the local communities: jamoats in Kyrgyzstan and mahallas in Uzbekistan
- engagement of local women and youth in conservation and educational actions, including native tree planting campaigns in national parks and schools
- competition among local mass media on best coverage of local issues relevant the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022, role of protected areas in nature conservation and their problems
- links with relevant ongoing processes: International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 and the Kyrgyzstan National Year of Mountain Ecosystem Conservation 2022, CBD and Espoo sessions
- links with ongoing and planned projects: GEF projects, other CEPF projects, EU- and Swiss-funded projects on tourism, sustainable development
- links with environmental safeguard teams of the development banks active in the region
- links with local and national environmental authorities: better integration and consideration in biodiversity and nature policy planning and implementation
- links with regional strategies and processes: Larger Than Tigers, Regional Economic Corridors strategies, Greening the Belt and Road Initiative, Resiland+

Shortcomings and challenges:

- COVID-19 related travel and meeting restrictions: flexible planning and online tools help partially overcome this challenge
- bank transaction restrictions: due to Ukraine-Russia conflict, Russian banking sector faced numerous sanctions, and since Central Asia's banks are closely linked to the Russian system, in spring 2022 we faced the challenge of making payments to Kyrgyzstan and

Uzbekistan - local partners could not receive funding in time (1-2 months delays in payments): alternative bank solutions had to be tested to overcome this

- difficult to access border regions, e.g. Dzhungaria (CHI-KAZ border region and ecological corridor): important to find local actors with experience and ability to work in the near-border biodiversity areas
- local interest in and knowledge of the International and National Year of Mountains is limited: more media coverage and more policy attention is needed
- KBA remain poorly known concept/category and needs to be reflected in national regulations/legislations: legal and regulatory references have greater acceptance by businesses than international concepts
- limited accessibility (no time, no response, no interest) from the large environmental and economic associations, networks and processes

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS**

Project activities did not involve any physical or other types of interventions that require application of socio-environmental safeguards. In tree planting campaign in Zarafshan and Amankutan parks, skilled forestry experts provided their inputs and native tree species were planted.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

We see the need in continuation of biodiversity safeguards activities, involving CSO capacity building, investigative and fact-checking actions and networking events in the following geographic areas and issues to be addressed:

- UZB Zarafshan river and national park and Amankutan national park (candidate KBAs): local extractive industries, local land use planning
- UZB Charvak and Chatkal mountains nearby Tashkent: tourism development planning
- UZB and KRG: need in better communication by authorities and CSOs about protected areas (regulations, boundaries, key facts), Red Lists (non-scientific approach) and KBAs targeting business and youth users
- KRG Alai Valley: support to planning of protected areas and KBA conservation vs planned infrastructure
- KRG Chatkal Alabuka area: support to investigations of poor mining and post-mining rehabilitation practices
- Kyrgyz Eco-MiR experience with ecomap.kg development could be refined (for greater policy impact and catalysing public interest) and replicated in other countries or sections of the biodiversity hotspot
- More stories from CEPF projects could be communicated and experiences exchanged via regional forums, seasonal bulletins or IMPACT-type publications
- Belt and Road Initiative and regional economic corridors: intensification of interactions and contacts between the economic and environmental actors
- Aarhus, Espoo, other conventions: more links with biodiversity. Regular contacts with regional biodiversity processes and projects under GEF, CMS, CITES, Ramsar, CBD, Larger Than Tigers, Resiland+

## **ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

<b>Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Breakdown of Additional Funding</b>	10,000 staff costs 10,000 local counterparts contributions

**INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

Zoi Environment Network ([www.zoinet.org](http://www.zoinet.org)), [enzoi@zoinet.org](mailto:enzoi@zoinet.org). Web-pages with project publications: <https://zoinet.org/product/cepf-biodiv-impact/> <https://zoinet.org/product/ca-mountains-2022/> <https://zoinet.org/product/cepf-biodiv/>