

# **CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report**

Organization's Legal Name:	Climate Conservation dba Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Project Title:	Connectivity, Capacity, and Cats: Building Resiliency in the Mountain Ecosystems of Koytendag, Turkmenistan
Grant Number:	CEPF-111692
Hotspot:	Mountains of Central Asia
Strategic Direction:	2 Improve management of priority sites with and without official protection status
Grant Amount:	\$150,000.95
Project Dates:	May 01, 2021 - May 31, 2023
Date of Report:	July 31, 2023

### **IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan facilitated the registration of the project, granting of visas for international experts and permissions for work in Koytendag. The Ministry is also the one uptaking the recommendations stemming from the project, aimed at improving the management and status of Koytendag reserve.

The UNESCO National Commission facilitated discussions as well as recommendations on how to improve management for purposes of revising the UNESCO World Heritage site dossier.

The MEK staff (Staff of the State Nature Reservealso responsible for the management of the State Sanctuaries and buffer zone around the State Nature Reserve), based in Bazardepe, MEK supported the organization of all field activities, as well as updates to the Management Plan and report preparations. Shanyaz Menliev, scientific adviser for the Koytendag Reserve, coordinated all the biodiversity monitoring activities. Serdar Choliev of the Koytendag Reserve was trained as the designated SMART officer to compile the SMART data, interpret it, and use it for adaptive management.

The science advisers of four other protected areas (Badhyz, Kaplankyr, Central Kopet Dag, and Sunt Hasar Dag) supported the biodiversity monitoring in the Reserve as well as received SMART training.

The Lebap velayat Nature Protection Society's branch facilitated collaboration between civil society and MEK administration.

Michiel Hotte provided the SMART training and further support off site.

John Linnell, NINA, supported the terrestrial biodiversity monitoring, capacity building, and data analysis.

Sasha Pavlenko, vegetation/pasture specialist, conducted pasture surveys and provided recommendations for implementing policy changes on livestock grazing.

### **CONSERVATION IMPACTS**

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Populations of urial and markhor stabilize or increase within 3 years from a baseline established in 2022	We only have baselines. it appears that the markhor population is stable. However that is not the case for urial.
Community engagement in management of Koytendag SNR buffer zones and cooperation with SNR authorities improves, as measured by signed agreements between authorities and communities within 3 years of project completion	There is willingness on the part of the communities to cooperate but it requires that the SNR management moves its 402 livestock out of it and that alternative income opportunities are subsidized (in tourism for example) are provided so that herders voluntarily reduce their livestock numbers.
Bilateral agreement between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan signed for improved transboundary management of Koytendag SNR and Surkhan SNR within 1 year of project completion	The 2 countries are committed to working on a transboundary nomination dossier as evidenced by participation in the 2nd phase of this project
Mountain Ecosystems of Koytendag nominated and inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site within 2 years of projection completion	The possibility that is nominated within this time frame is still a a possibility.
Improved management of 20,000 hectares of production landscape via better management of cave ecosystems and grazing areas on the boundaries of Koytendag SNR	No improvement yet.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
20 Koytendag State Nature Reserve officers and rangers have increased individual capacity to manage the reserve using SMART data and biological surveys	18 rangers trained
Improved management of 40,000 hectares of Koytendag SNR, as measured by baseline and final METT scores	As of today it is minimally improved. The introduction of SMART and the biodiversity monitoring are the most significant changes; there is more attention to policing the dinosaur plateau and protecting it from vandalism. However for more critical changes are urgently needed and they all relate to pasture use and policing and enforcement of violations.

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

The development of recommendations shared with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the UNESCO World Heritage site Commission for revising the Nomination Dossier:

• Revise the territories of the nomination dossier of the Koytendag Mountain Ecosystem (MEK) in accordance with the recommendations of IUCN experts (2015) and, together with specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Service, the Land Resources Administration, agree and approve these territories, including buffer zones;

• Exclude from Dossier Garlyk Wildlife Sanctuary;

• Include in Hojeypil sanctuary the villages of Sayat and Hojeypil:

• Formalize the changed territories of the reserve and sanctuaries (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers on the change of territories), based on GIS coordinates and data obtained within the framework of projects (RSPB, CEPF / CLLC);

• The nomination dossier of the MEK should be brought into line with the recommendations of IUCN experts (2015): recommendations on the integrity of the territory, protection, management, nomination boundaries, criteria, grazing monitoring, tourism, transnational cooperation, etc.;

• Kaptarkhana cave should be included in the nomination dossier; draw up documents for the Kaptarkhan cave as a "Natural Monument";

• Include French Federation of speleologists team in the group for the study of the reserve / for the preparation of a transnational nomination;

• The Ministry of Agriculture needs to develop, agree and approve Model Regulations on Ecological Corridors, Buffer/Protected Zones, in accordance with the Law "On Protected Areas".

Based on the materials of the 3 working groups of the seminar on ecosystem connectivity held within the framework of the CEPF / CLLC project on April 17-18, 2023, it is necessary to create ecological corridors and link mountain and foothill ecosystems. To do this, it is proposed:

1. To expand the territory of the existing Khojapil reserve (detailed recommendations and maps are presented in the report of the GIS expert, as well as reflected in the report on the seminar). The territory of the existing reserve is not representative enough to protect the habitats of urial, lynx, wild boar, porcupine, wolf and other animals. There is vandalism and degradation of the paleontological monument "Dinosaur Plateau", overgrazing of livestock, pollution with household waste, mass unorganized tourism.

2. To create an eco-corridor (passage) "Bili-synyk" through the border fence inside the Koytendag Reserve to preserve the genetic diversity of wild animals, exchange within ungulate populations (markhor, argali), preserve integrity and ensure connectivity within the reserve.

3. To create the Tallymerjen zakaznik for the preservation of the Red Book and rare species of birds (gyrfalcon, bustard, steppe eagle, lesser white-throated eagle, etc.) and connect it with an eco-corridor with the existing Khojaburdzhibelent reserve.

4. To create an eco-corridor "Khojaburjibelent-Leimekan-Khojapil" to preserve and restore the number of the Bukhara urial subspecies, protect pistachios.

5. To create an eco-corridor "Zarpchi" for the organization of local protection of gazelles.

6. To create an eco-corridor "Jarguzer" (Amu Darya-border with Uzbekistan and Afghanistan) for the protection of red deer.

7. To create an eco-corridor "Airibaba" (Koytendag-Surkhan Reserve / Uzbekistan) for the protection of the gene pool of wild animals, the protection and exchange of populations of markhor, argali and other species.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE KOYTENDAG RESERVE:

• It is necessary to organize regular inspection on the Dinosaur Plateau, especially on weekends and holidays. It is necessary to install a barrier right at the foot of the Plateau, a full house and establish control by law enforcement agencies. It is desirable to temporarily close the Dinosaur Plateau from tourists to preserve dinosaur footprints. Dinosaur footprints, in addition to inscriptions and debris from tourists, are depleted from rain and rockfalls. It is necessary to make a fence around the perimeter of the Plateau, install special ecological trails, video surveillance using modern equipment (if possible with the support of small CEPF grants);

• It is necessary to appoint site chiefs and appropriate inspectors throughout the reserve and sanctuaries. If the heads of the sites and 3-4 inspectors for each of the reserves responsible for the site are appointed, then the work will improve and this will increase their responsibility for the sites. It is necessary to appoint a new, more responsible employee as the head of the security department, who knows how to use SMART monitoring during rounds;

• In the administrative building of the reserve, the Internet has not been working for several months, which creates problems with downloading and sending SMART monitoring data to the international SMART expert Michel Hotte. It is necessary to urgently pay for the Internet;

• Strict control over grazing in the Khojapil and Khojagaraul reserves is necessary. There is indirect information about illegal grazing in the reserve. It is necessary to artificially improve the pasture areas adjacent to the protected areas. It is necessary to drill 3-4 wells in the territories adjacent to the protected areas. It is necessary to promote the rational use of pasture lands with local shepherds and recommend to them the rotation of pastures;

• The Ministry of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Service must abolish the maintenance of farms in all reserves, including in Koytendag, because in hot weather grazing is carried out on the territory of the reserve itself, where good pastures are preserved and there is access to water sources.

### **PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES**

#### **Overall results of the project:**

At the start six issues were identified that the project should seek to address: weak management, human pressures, a missed opportunity with the World Heritage designation, economic development, transboundary cooperation, and civil society.

Under Component 1, we worked to build the capacity of Koytendag SNR personnel and improving monitoring systems.

We contributed to that by

- Rolling out SMART to support biological monitoring and patrolling to detect illegal hunting, harvesting of traditional plants, and grazing among other threats. 18 rangers were

trained and SMART has been in use since November 2022. SMART has been rolled out and is currently in use but we have faced many challenges. Firstly, because of COVID we could not have an in person training until October 2022, which is essential for successful implementation. Second, we received little interest and support from the former head of protection of Koytendag and once we realized he was a major obstacle to the use of SMART, we addressed the issue with the head of the Reserve and the Ministry in Ashgabat. He was removed from the job and now Serdar Choliev, a motivated staff previously in the Science Division is now head of protection. Third we faced problems with the SMART units purchased which were not recording treks properly so we had to purchase new units. Fourth we had issues with network connection in the Reserve itself. For several months, the Ministry did not pay for a faster internet making it difficult to send SMART data and for our international SMART expert to communicate with the team. Fifth, because of restrictions in Turkmenistan, most communication platforms are blocked but fortunately with some creativity and patience our international expert, local expert Atamyrat Veyisov and Koytendag reserve SMART officer have been able, albeit very slowly, to make progress.

- Updating the 5-year Management Plan and preparing METT scorecards (baseline and end of project).

Under Component 2, we looked at the weaknesses identified in the World Heritage nomination process especially as related to ecological issues:

We contributed to that by:

- Training rangers and staff to conduct wildlife surveys of markhor, urial and lynx through the use of camera traps and transect surveys. Surveys have revealed that currently there seems to be a stable population of lynx, a stable population of markhor, and a vulnerable population of urial. The baselines and trends provided in the official reports to the Ministry are not accurate (as the populations are constantly "increasing) so we sught to create our own new baselines and from the behavior of animals and threats in the MEK determine the status. Urial are very few and very skittish and hard to observe closely. Since the wildlife sanctuaries are overtaken by domestic livestock there is very little left for them to graze so they are mostly located in the Nature Reserve. We did not find any sign of goitered gazelle. We identified areas within the Reserve where the border fence is cutting off urial and markhor (in Kara Jumalak) populations and made recommendations for the area beyond the border fence to be surveyed and with the potential consideration of creating wildlife passages in the border fence.

- Supported by the experts from the other Reserves, additional information has been collected on the rich biodiversity of Koytendag, which includes in total 2 amphibian, 10 fish, 34 reptiles, 229 bird and 43 mammal species.

Under Component 3, we looked at measures to reduce pressures from grazing from local communities and about creating community liaisons between park authorities and villages.

We contributed to that by

- Developing recommendations on how to reduce grazing pressure in the Strict Nature Reserve and Widlife Sanctuaries. While stricter enforcement is necessary, equally important is for the Reserve Management itself to set an example for the nearby villages and herding communities by not allowing its very own livestock (402 of them) to graze in the Strict Nature Reserve and the Wildlife Sanctuaries. We raised this issue with the Ministry: its a Turkmenistan protected areas-wide problem where all reserves hold livestock for business purposes. In Koytendag it is specifically serious given the number, and given that the livestock is grazed inside the core zone and especially in light of the grave pressures on water availability driven by climate change. Some herding communities are willing to consider changes, including the use of areas outside of MEK to give the wildlife sanctuaries a break especially if MEK is designated as World Heritage site and ecological tourism are supported providing alternative income.

Under Component 4, we considered the development threats, specifically unregulated tourism and the role of the cement factory near Garlyk.

We contributed to that by proposing

- Measures to make tourism on the dinosaur plateau in Hojapyl sustainable by protecting the footprints through fencing as well as developing horse tourism to access plateau versus building a funiculaire.

Under Component 5 we considerd the cooperation with Uzbekistan.

We contributed by proposing developing a joint nomination of Koytendag as a transboundary World Heritage site, which is now under furter consideration as part of the CEPF 2 project.

# Results for each deliverable:

Com	ponent	Delive	erable	
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Reserve Management - Building the capacity of Reserve staff and rangers to manage the protected area	1.1	Report on training of 20 rangers in SMART monitoring and two officers in data analysis, including dates of training, agendas, training materials, participant names and sex, and next steps	18 rangers trained - see report shared previously
1.0	Reserve Management - Building the capacity of Reserve staff and rangers to manage the protected area	1.2	Updated management plan for Koytendag State Nature Reserve reflecting introduction of SMART, wildlife monitoring, METT requirements, and indicator species	yes - attached in other information
2.0	Monitoring of wildlife, vegetation and cave fauna	2.1	Report on wildlife monitoring, including (1) deployment and use of camera traps, and (2) baseline and progress data on changes and species occurrence	see attached in other information additional report
2.0	Monitoring of wildlife, vegetation and cave fauna	2.2	Report on vegetation and pasture monitoring and recommendations for grazing management outside of SNR.	already shared
2.0	Monitoring of wildlife, vegetation and cave fauna	2.3	Report on biological assessment of the	see other information

Comp	ponent	Deliverable			
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable	
			Kaptarhana cave and other caves adjacent to the protected area		
3.0	Community engagement	3.1	Report on outreach meetings with communities surrounding Koytendag SNR, including dates of meetings, agenda, materials presented, attendance lists with relevant demographic detail, and next steps.	See other information	
1.0	Reserve Management - Building the capacity of Reserve staff and rangers to manage the protected area	1.3	Baseline and final METT scorecards for Koytendag State Nature Reserve	see attached in other information	
4.0	Landscape Planning	4.1	Report on engagement of Ministry of Agricultural and Environmental Protection with documentation supporting sustainable management of Koytendag key biodiversity area in relation to tourism, mining, and engagement of civil society	see other information	
5.0	Transboundary Cooperation	5.1	Report on workshop promoting cooperation between Koytendag SNR and Uzbekistan's Surkan Strict Nature Reserve, including	see other information	

Com	ponent	Deliverable				
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable		
			agenda, materials presented, names, sex, and relevant details of participants, and next steps			
6.0	Safeguards and CLLC Capacity	6.1	Report on Process Framework	see other information		
6.0	Safeguards and CLLC Capacity	6.2	Gender tracking tool see other information			
2.0	Monitoring of wildlife, vegetation and cave fauna	2.4	Disposition report describing handover of all computers, cameras, GPS units, and other procured items to Koytendag SNR	see other information		
3.0	Community engagement	3.2	Report on engagement, training, and deployment of community liaisons, including the names, sex, and relevant demographic details of these people	see other information		

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

The introduction of SMART will improve the management of the Reserve. However given that it is only very recently that patrols are being recorded more accurately we still don't have enough data.

### **PORTFOLIO INDICATORS**

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1	15 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs),	60,000	40,000 hectares of Koytendag SNR and	10,000	As described in impact update, we have not

Portfolio Indicator	Portfolio Indicator	Expected Numerical	Expected Contribution	ExpectedActualContributionNumerical	
Number	Description covering 600,000 hectares, have improved management	Contribution	Description 20,000 of surrounding production landscape	Contribution	achieved the desired contribution due to systemic issues not being addressed.
4	10 land-use plans or land-use management practices incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation	1	At least one of the surrounding villages of meni Stalina, Khodzapil, Koyten, Karabulak, and Garlyk adopts a pasture management plan	0	There has not been a stated commitment yet, given lack of commitment on the part of Koytendag SNR and Ministry
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	Partnership between CLLC, Koytendag SNR, and associations of community members from meni Stalina, Khodzapil, Koyten, Karabulak, and Garlyk	1	
1.1	Number of species to which threats are reduced	1	Two total, but only one that is globally threatened. Urial (vulnerable) and markhor (NT)	1	The markhor population is stable. But the project has not yet reversed the decline for the urial.
2.1	Number of hectares of KBA with improved management	60,000	protected area (40,000) and the surrounding production landscape (20,000)	10,000	As described above. Minimal improvement.

Portfolio Indicator	Portfolio Indicator	Expected Numerical	Expected Contribution	Actual Numerical	Actual Contribution Description
Number	Description	Contribution	Description	Contribution	•
2.2	Number of KBAs with official protection status with improved management	1	Koytendag KBA is comprised of the formal protected area (40,000) and the surrounding production landscape (20,000)	1	yes but minimal improvement
2.3	Number of KBAs without official protection status with improved management	1	protected area (40,000) and the surrounding production landscape (20,000)	0	no improvement in production landscapes
3.2	Number of local level land use plans that incorporate biodiversity conservation as a management objective	1	At least one of the surrounding villages of meni Stalina, Khodzapil, Koyten, Karabulak, and Garlyk adopts a pasture management plan	0	No adoption yet.
4.2	Number of hectares of farming or grazing areas that incorporate biodiversity conservation into operations	20,000	Production landscape outside the Koytendag SNR	0	No commitment yet.
5.3	Number of new networks or partnerships for conservation that are created and/or strengthened	1	Bilateral agreement between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan signed for improved transboundary management of Koytendag SNR and	1	Yes as confirmed by participation in CEPF 2

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
			Surkhan SNR within 1		
			completion		

### **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	WDPA	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original	New	Year of Legal
Area	ID*				Total Size (Hectares)	Protected Hectares	Declaration or Expansion
					**	***	

\*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
Koytendag	TKM01		10,000

#### **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	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
Landscape				

#### **Benefits to Individuals**

#### • Structured Training:

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
18		SMART, biodiversity monitoring

#### • 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	View the <b>benefits</b> column below with the following
corresponding codes:	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					5			Тур	oe o	of B	en	efit			Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	С	d	е	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							1	Тор	ics	;						
			Α	В	С	D	Ε	F	G	Η	Ι	J	Κ	L	Μ	Ν	0	Ρ

"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

#### **Networks and Partnerships**

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

Name of	Year	Country/	Established	Purpose
Network/Partnership	Established	Countries	by Project?	
Partnership between	2023	Turkmenista	Yes	Work to develop a joint UNESCO World
Surkhan and Koytendag		n;Uzbekistan		Heritage Dossier nomination and harmonize
Reserves				management and conservation practices

# 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?

### **Globally Threatened Species**

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

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Ovis	vignei	Urial	VU	species habitat protection, monitoring, patrolling to halt poaching.	Decreasing

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

For starters, from a team perspective, we had a strong core team in Turkmenistan that knows how to work around the challenges. This includes a strong financial manager and project coordinator that have worked in this field and within the Ministry.

We faced a number of challenges:

- Transferring funds and equipment;
- Dealing with COVID-related closures that prevented travel of international experts; and

- Some communication platforms were not accessible which created difficulties in communicating swiftly.

That said, SMART was introduced, camera traps were placed, and the local team members were able to travel and assist with surveys, outreach initiatives, and important dialogues with local communities and their authorities.

Proposed improvements in the management of Koytendag, and addressing pressures requires commitment and the success and sustainability of initiatives introduced in the frame of the project depend on the willingness of PA authorities, local authorities, and the relevant ministries to make changes: from changing personnel, to introducing different practices and restrictions. Local communities might be ready to makes changes (for example by reducing their herd sizes) as well, but they will only do so if there is an acknowledgment by the government in the form of compensation/incentives for alternative income generating opportunities.

Generally, anticipated risks were mitigated thanks to the expertise of the core team in Turkmenistan. These included gaining access to the region around Koytendag SNR and adjoining sanctuaries, engaging necessary stakeholders and decision-makers, and producing recommendations well-supported by science and documentation.

The overall process - aside from delays due to COVID-related closures - was efficient to allow the core team to plan, prepare, and execute the work. The team steadily built from processes, meetings, and missions among smaller numbers of people to the mission and eventual workshop with a larger group of national, regional, and international experts.

### SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

An overarching success of this project has been the application and expansion of existing conservation expertise; capacity-building to apply new approaches, methods, and technologies; and advancement of understanding and cooperation from international to local levels.

A main challenge during the whole project has been how best to address and influence an eventual decision on acceptance of Koytendag SNR as a World Heritage Site. Many informed recommendations can be made, but it is the responsibility of the government and cross-sectoral ministerial cooperation to act on them and provide for their implementation. Projects like this, with such specific, predetermined, and high-level objectives can be more challenging to fully and successfully complete.

The connectivity conservation workshop toward the end of the project happened at an ideal time for coalescing understandings and discussions. Enough observations had been made and information gathered that critical partners were engaged and issues identified that allowed the workshop to have detailed discussions and make more concrete recommendations.

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

In separate document

# ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

### ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	\$20,000.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	20,000 in kind

# **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.

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