



## **GLOBAL SNOW LEOPARD AND ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION PROGRAM:**

### **ACTION PLANNING, LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT GLOBAL WORKSHOP**

Kapriz Center, Baktuu-Dolonoty, Issyk Kul Region, Kyrgyz Republic  
June 6-10, 2014

### **WORKSHOP REPORT**

This report offers brief summary of the workshop deliberations. The workshop hosted by the State Agency of Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Working Secretariat and co-sponsored and co-organized by partners<sup>1</sup> was the first range-wide meeting of Government officials to follow up on adoption of the Declaration on Snow Leopard and the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) at the Forum in Bishkek under the leadership of H.E. President Atambaev in October 2013. Range countries met to discuss how to launch and operationalize GSLEP implementation at national and global levels.

The workshop was attended by 68 people including national focal points from 10 out of the 12 range countries and representatives from various national and international organizations (see Annex).

#### **Specific objectives were to:**

- I. Identify a minimum of 20 Snow Leopard Landscapes in which to achieve the GSLEP's "Secure 20 by 2020" goal.
- II. Define National Priority Activities (NPAs) and Global Priority Activities (GPAs) for the first two-year Implementation Plan, agree on approach to develop Key Performance Indicators to measure progress toward the GSLEP goal, and advance preparation of specific project proposals for relevant funding partners.
- III. Enhance capacity of the National Focal Points and Working Secretariat staff, develop effective leadership teams to support national institutional arrangements for GSLEP implementation.

#### **Key points from presentations and deliberations**

- 20 snow leopard landscapes towards Secure 20 by 2020 identified, described and draft maps presented by 10 countries. Information from China and Uzbekistan pending (Table 1, page 6-7).
- A 7-point definition of 'secure landscapes' drafted by a working group and tentatively agreed upon by the participants (see details under Day 3, page 9-10).

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<sup>1</sup> CMS, Global Environment Facility, Global Tiger Initiative, INTERPOL, NABU, Snow Leopard Conservancy, Snow Leopard Network, Snow Leopard Trust, UNDP, USAID, World Bank, WCS and WWF.

- 10 sets of National Priority Actions (China & Uzbekistan pending) and 5 sets of Global Priority Actions developed for the first Two Year Implementation Plan.
- Process of drafting guidelines for landscape management plans initiated by a working group of National Focal Points from India, Bhutan, Mongolia, and Kyrgyz Republic, and Secretariat.
- Process of finalizing KPIs initiated by the Working group represented by India, Mongolia, Pakistan and Russia (other countries are welcome to join).
- Importance of sustaining programs beyond project tenures underscored. Focus to be drawn towards developing innovative financial mechanisms such as resource leveraging and green growth business models.
- The need to improve detection and conviction rates to reduce illegal poaching and trafficking across Central Asia recognized.
- Importance of understanding infrastructure projects and plans proactively highlighted.
- The requirement for capacity enhancement in specific issues underlined.
- Leadership teams trained and prepared.

**Key next steps identified to be completed on specific dates:**

- Inform all range country Governments on the Workshop results – by Host Govt & Secretariat – by June 30.
- Draft the Guidelines on Landscape management Planning – by the Working Group – July 15.
- Draft the KPIs – by the Working Group – July 15.
- Plan attendance of CMS regional workshop in Bishkek (September 23-25), propose decision on SL Year – by NFPs – ASAP.
- Send to Secretariat the fine-tuned GPAs and NPAs – by partners and NFPs – by July 15.
- Fine-tune 20 snow leopard landscapes – by NFPs with technical support from Secretariat & partners – by July 15.
- Disseminate the Two-Year Implementation Plan – by Secretariat – July 31.
- Finalize staffing of the Secretariat – by Host Govt w/ partners – August 15.
- Get ready for first Snow Leopard Day celebration in all SLCs (and other countries) on Oct 23 – by NFPs with support from Secretariat and partners.
- Prepare the first Steering Committee meeting on the margins of CBD COP in Korea (Oct 6-17) – by Secretariat with NFPs.
- Start developing a pipeline of new national projects and global projects for funding by the GEF, MDBs (WB, ADB, etc.), UNDP, bilaterals (USAID, etc.), business & industry, CSR – by NFPs, partners– ASAP.

**Additional action points to be followed up on:**

- **Resource mobilization**
  - Countries encouraged to explore the possibilities of innovative financial mechanisms including resource leveraging and innovative business models within ecologically fragile landscapes.
  - Countries encouraged to consider creating Wildlife Business Councils (Secretariat to share example document).
  - Possibly hold specific NSLEP meetings within the countries and get all stakeholders together to put all perspectives on table for effective planning and implementation.

- **Illegal poaching and trafficking**
  - Professional organizations including Interpol to explore building collaborations and holding capacity building workshops and consultations with specific countries that require assistance in this aspect. Provide technical support to border and customs officers on detecting illegal trade.
  - Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit developed by International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime will be made available to all range countries.
  - Trans-national group with analysts and investigators to help with international illegal trafficking of wildlife in snow leopard range. Nomination of an analyst and a lead investigator from each range country to attend consultation meetings.
  
- **Infrastructure projects and plans**
  - Collation of maps and information on existing and upcoming infrastructure projects (mining, dams, roads, railway, tourism and pipelines) overlapping with snow leopard landscapes by accessing specific departments and other agencies. This can be followed up by the secretariat with the help of focal points.
  - Collation of existing policy documents, institutions and other agencies on the infrastructure projects encouraged to be undertaken by country focal points.
  - Countries encouraged to conduct valuation of ecosystem services in snow leopard landscapes.
  - Promotion of smart green infrastructure tools in snow leopard habitats through capacity building courses for industries by WB environment engineers.
  
- **Capacity enhancement**
  - Each range country to work out the existing gaps in capacity at senior administrative, cross-ministerial (e.g. infrastructure, finance and economic development) as well as frontline levels.
  - Facilitate distance learning modules.
  - International Financial Institutions, neighboring countries with existing facilities, and other organizations to provide support.
  
- **Working Secretariat**
  - To maintain regular communication with range countries and other partners.
  - Upgrade the website to enable dynamic information sharing and become a resource.
  - To become fully operational by the end of 2014.
  - To play a pivotal facilitating role in planning and implementation of national and global priority actions for all range countries.

## Daily summary reports

### DAY 1. Opening and Twenty Landscapes

#### Session 1. Opening Remarks

**H.E. Mr. Joomart Djumabekov**, Head of Agriculture and Environment Sector, the Prime Minister Office welcomed workshop participants to Kyrgyz Republic. He underscored snow leopard conservation as complex, multi-sectoral challenge that cannot be solved by environmental agencies only and requires personal participation of countries' leaders on cross-border cooperation, involvement of various sectors of the economy and the private sector. The need of the hour is to coordinate the efforts of all the range states of the snow leopard, because our strength is in the unity of approaches and actions. He invited private sector, various governmental agencies, and donors to pledge resources and support to GSLEP implementation.

**Mr. S. Atadzhanov**, Director of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the support of the range countries to the initiative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic in holding the Global Forum on snow leopard conservation and coming together now. He announced the launch of Working Secretariat in Bishkek to coordinate and support GSLEP implementation and pledged continued support to Secretariat's activities. Mr. Atadzhanov welcomed and fully supported the development of the first two-year implementation plan with specific priorities within the GSLEP, including national and global priority actions for 2014-15 as well as an agreement to develop program monitoring mechanism through key performance indicators.

**Mr. Alexander Avanesov**, United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic welcomed the participants and informed that UNDP, in consortium with other international organizations, has been supporting efforts of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in conserving its biodiversity and natural heritage and in this regard it is riveting to see that within the scope of the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Programme, the range countries have actively embarked upon implementing specific locally tailored measures such as cross-border cooperation and establishment of a reliable system of coordination and monitoring of the snow leopard habitats. He also informed that biodiversity conservation is prioritized in the National Strategy on Sustainable Development of the Kyrgyz Republic and that he is confident that jointly we'll achieve significant results towards conservation of snow leopard.

**Ms. Yoko Watanabe**, Program Manager, GEF explained that GEF has been supporting 18 projects with total about \$55m related to snow leopard conservation during the past decade. These projects not only focused on protection of snow leopard, but also benefitting local communities. GEF raised \$4.4 billion for the next five years to support biodiversity conservation efforts worldwide and is ready to continue working with the range countries on snow leopard conservation through GEF's new strategy. Coordination of national and global activities is important to make such efforts effective. It is the time to develop action plan converting project ideas into actual projects. GEF is prepared for quick development with snow leopard range countries and invites other donors to work together to coordinate and scale up these efforts. Thank you for partnership and friendship!

**Ms. Mary Melnyk**, Environment Team Leader for Asia at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) said that conservation of biodiversity and the snow leopard is so important for human wellbeing, it is fundamental for our economies. It is important for all of us to stop poaching and trafficking of wildlife, including the snow leopard. President Obama issued an Executive Order to combat wildlife trafficking and poaching. Climate change and high mountain communities are other aspects where we see the connection of snow leopard conservation with high mountains. USAID works with WWF and Interpol on issues related to snow leopard. Ms. Melnyk congratulated the Government of Kyrgyz Republic on leading such an important regional and global initiative on snow leopard conservation. She also stressed that USAID's investment in snow leopard conservation has many benefits, including healthy lives and livelihoods for high-mountain communities and a sustained water source for people living on farms and in towns and cities downstream, many of whom are extremely poor. Sustaining water supplies is critically important in a world experiencing climate change.

**Mr. Brad Rutherford**, Executive Director of the Snow Leopard Trust, congratulated the delegates for their resolve to secure 20 landscapes by 2020. In his view, this is a significant first step in realizing the vision of snow leopard conservation and the inclusive growth of local communities shared by President Almazbek Atambayev, the snow leopard range countries, and the international conservation community. Mr. Rutherford pledged support and full commitment of over 50 SLT field staff for achieving GSLEP goal of securing 20 landscapes by 2020. He also mentioned that Snow Leopard Network (SLN) is an affiliation of 400+ researchers and professionals working to help in snow leopard protection; SLN website has tremendous resources. SLN administers an annual grant program, last year SLN passed over \$55k in grants.

**Mr. Boris Tichomirow**, Central Asia Program Director, NABU congratulated participants for coming together. He mentioned that we are here for developing the mechanism of GSLEP implementation. Mr. Tichomirow also informed everyone about the new coalition that NABU developed with the State Agency, research and NGOs to create a system for monitoring of mountain ecosystems in Kyrgyz Republic and suggested that such experience would be helpful for scaling up regionally through GEF project.

**Mr. John Farrington**, Program Manager, WWF welcomed friends and colleagues and congratulated the Government of Kyrgyz Republic on launching the Working Secretariat, which is an important milestone. He stressed that we have an opportunity now to take this work to the field and communities. WWF really hopes to help these communities with establishing better livelihoods. An example of such work would be WWF's project in six countries. This project changes attitudes of local communities from poaching and trapping of snow leopards to their protection from poachers.

**Mr. Andrey Kushlin**, GTI Program Manager, World Bank highlighted the importance of rapid launch and implementation of the GSLEP at national and global levels. He also suggested that we should all cherish and promote GSLEP's focus on landscapes management and conservation, working across sectors and agencies. How do we make it work with central and subnational governments? This program is extremely well positioned to advance landscape approach to conservation and should become a role model for other initiatives. With our joint effort we can make it happen. Mr. Kushlin also reminded that maintaining good relationships and nurturing partnership among the range Governments, NGOs, academia and research institutions, donors, society is core to the success of

GSLEP implementation. He challenged each country to recruit new partners and donors and private sector.

**Mr. Keshav Varma**, Founding Director, GTI, feel privileged to be here in less than two years since the launch of the snow leopard initiative. Now living in Delhi, Mr. Varma informed that several states in India have dried up rivers impacted by changes in high mountains, and people are not yet able to connect these issues. What may appear or sound like distant damage is actually taking place very close to us ' that there was an imminent need to establish that link and make people understand. He stressed that there is an urgent need of maintaining momentum after the Snow Leopard Forum and encouraged the participants to accelerate the implementation plan. The Forum created authorizing environment, and the countries now can swiftly move on improving legislation, creating new institutions, developing transboundary agreements and action, involving donors and increasing domestic funding. The role of the Working Secretariat and countries is to stay connected and inform each other. Mr. Varma echoed the words of H.E. Mr. Joomart Djumabekov saying that we are the force when together! He again congratulated the Government of Kyrgyzstan on the leadership and results in preservation of the wilderness.

**Mr. Koustubh Sharma**, Deputy Manager, Working Secretariat, introduced the objectives and program of the workshop.

## **Session 2. Snow Leopard Landscapes**

### **A. Landscape identification**

John Farrington outlined the overarching goal of the GSLEP and criteria for selection of the snow leopard landscapes towards the GSLEP goal of securing 20 landscapes by 2020. Then, the representatives of the Governments identified and presented the following 20 landscapes, 1 of which is currently multi-national. The landscapes total more than 570,000 sq.km. The following table lists the draft landscapes identified and estimated sizes.

**Table 1.** Snow leopard landscapes identified towards the Secure 20 by 2020 goal (Information from China and Uzbekistan pending)

<b>Country</b>	<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Area in sq.km</b>
Afghanistan	Wakhan National Park	10,951
Bhutan (border area TBD)	Snow Leopard Landscape Area	12,110
India	Hemis-Spiti	29,000
	Nanda Devi – Gangotri	12,000
(border area TBD)	Kanchendzonga-Tawang	5,630
Kazakhstan	Jungar Alatau	16,008
	Northern Tien Shan	23,426
Kyrgyzstan	Sarychat	13,201
Mongolia	Altai	56,000
	South Gobi	82,000
	North Altai	72,000
Nepal	Eastern	9,674
	Central Complex	9,258
	Western	10,436
Pakistan	Hindu Kush	10,541

Country	Landscape	Area in sq.km
	Pamir	25,498
	Himalaya	4,659
Russia	Altai	48,000
Tajikistan	Pamir	92,000
Multi-National Landscapes	Landscape	Area in sq.km
Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan	Allay – Gisar	30,000

The session's Chairman summarized the identification of the landscapes, stating that the range countries so far identified 20 landscapes towards the GSLEP's common goal. Two countries – China and Uzbekistan – are still undergoing the landscape identification process.

During the break, **Mr. B. Abdiev** informed everyone about signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Snow Leopard Trust and State Agency to provide technical assistance to the national parks of the Kyrgyz Republic.

**Mr. Koustubh Sharma** presented a summary of landscapes identification on a map stating that the quality of landscape identification varies. While some are identified with GIS tools, others are simply hand-drawn on the map. A process of fine-tuning after the workshop and technical GIS-based support will be available to the National Focal Points to make all identified landscapes robust in a GIS format.

#### B. Overview of good practices in sustainable land and landscape management

The session focused on a discussion of what 'secured' would mean for snow leopard landscapes. Some of landscapes are completely covered by Protected Areas, others have plenty of people living in communities there. Landscapes have a mix of protected areas, communities, infrastructure being planned and built, mining and other land-use activities. GEF suggested the experience of stocktaking on mainstreaming biodiversity into productive landscapes. There are two critical areas of engagement based on this experience: land use mapping and management and working with key sectors that use a landscape – mining, agriculture, forestry, hydropower and others. USAID suggested greater involvement of other sectors in a discussion to ensure multi-sectoral approach of GSLEP implementation. Kyrgyz Republic informed that the issue is in implementation of the legislation on habitat connectivity and corridors between multiple land users. While protected areas do maintain their functions, management and enforcement of wildlife migration corridors is still a big practical challenge. Bhutan informed others about their experience with *landscape management plans*. The following elements of landscape planning were discussed and identified:

- Mapping and zonation of a landscape: PAs, corridors, communities, infrastructure
- Involving key economic sectors, land-users and institutions: legislation and enforcement
- Evaluating landscapes and their services economically now and in the future, comparing the scenarios
- Communication and monitoring of landscape changes
- Creating partnerships

A **Working Group** to draft Guidelines on landscape management plans was formed, including Bhutan, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, and GEF.

## DAY 2. Project Development and Building Leadership Teams

**Mr. Andrew Zakharenka** reminded about the results achieved in the first day and introduced two goals for the day: learn about project development and start building leadership teams.

### Session 3: Developing projects

**Mr. Andrey Kushlin**, World Bank and **Ms. Yoko Watanabe**, GEF briefly described GEF programs and requirements for project development. GEF is investing into 18 projects related in snow leopard range countries with total of about \$55m. USAID described how the agency develops projects in different countries. Development agencies work on various components of snow leopard agenda in the range countries. However, it is the Governments of range countries that can expedite and focus this development agenda more explicitly on snow leopard.

**Mr. Bakhtyar Abdiev**, Kyrgyz Republic presented a project proposal to increase level of law enforcement, create new protected areas, sustainably manage livestock pastures, and coordinate international efforts of GSLEP implementation through the Working Secretariat, with projected total of \$8m (\$6m from STAR allocation and \$2m from sustainable forest management allocation) plus \$24m in co-financing. A working group consisting of key stakeholders and agencies was created by an order of the State Agency to continue developing and enhance the project proposal. WWF presented ecological network of landscapes in Kyrgyz Republic, called ECONET.

**Ms. Natalya Dronova**, WWF Russia presented Russia's new GEF-funded Big Cats Project. WWF Russia has been chosen to implement it in its new capacity as a GEF agency. The project will aim to address conservation needs of wild tiger, snow leopard, in three locations: Russian Far East, Altai-Sayan, and Caucasus. Project aims to support a network of PAs in key areas of snow leopard, implementing enhanced economic mechanism and livelihoods for local people, outreach and communication towards forming positive attitude of local people towards live snow leopard.

Range countries made observations on key challenges during the project implementation that need to be addressed upfront during project identification and planning:

- projects are not typically sustainable, funding stops;
- hard to ensure local ownership of the project activities;
- often inhibiting schedule of funds release;
- slow institutionalizing / building upon project outcomes;
- lack of awareness on project activities among key decision makers.

**Mr. Keshav Varma** stressed on the need to develop a framework for sustainable finance by using parts of the inflows and grants to create 'Green Funds' that may cover the life cycle of the projects by leveraging resources and implementing innovative business models. In this regard, a tentative plan was made to encourage range countries to take up at least one landscape each and perform its economic evaluation.



Discussion and further sharing of project experience on addressing these key challenges followed.

Session 4. Leadership in Conservation – What is Adaptive Leadership? What are the constraints to Collective Action?

The World Bank Institute (WBI) Leadership team comprising **Mr. Bruno Laporte, Ms. Caby Verzosa and Ms. Rachel Petersen**, began their Leadership for Results in Conservation program. Participants self-selected into 3 groups which looked to address a specific threat to achieving their national action plans and overall securing their landscapes. These threats were 1) Direct community threats such as over-grazing, retaliatory killing, poaching and the illegal trade, 2) large scale infrastructure development, and 3) poor awareness among policy makers. Each group understood the criticality of focusing on adaptive challenges, learned to distinguish them from technical challenges, and developed a vision of ‘success’ that they would like to achieve by the year 2020 in relation to their threats.

**DAY 3. Linking Global Support to National Priorities in Monitoring and Law Enforcement; Net-Mapping and Strategic Communications**

**Mr. Andrew Zakharenka** introduced the goals of the day – to link global and regional support of partner organizations with national priority activities in monitoring and evaluation as well as in law enforcement and to conduct net-mapping exercise of stakeholders and to learn about strategic communications.

Session 5. Supporting National Research and Monitoring (linking Global Support Component D to National actions)

**Mr. Charudutt Mishra** introduced the session’s objective and proceeded with preliminary results of the Working Group on developing early thinking about what does it mean to “secure” SLL 20. After the deliberations, the range countries agreed to the following criteria for **secure landscapes**:

- Snow leopard landscapes designated as ‘ecologically fragile’ zones that have defined ‘values’ and biodiversity-sensitive land-use and development planning for various zones within the landscape. Critical wildlife areas and corridors designated within the landscapes where damaging land use is minimized.
- Stable or increasing population of snow leopards and sufficient prey populations maintained in the landscapes.
- Sustainable and socially responsible development achieved through community based efforts and business models to enhance livelihoods of local communities within the ecologically fragile zones (landscapes).
- Industry encouraged to aid local communities in the multiple-use zones within the snow leopard landscapes (chipping in funds for conservation and livelihood activities).
- Local community involvement in conservation planning and implementation through community-based conservation efforts, provisioning of economic and other incentives, and policy and legal support.

- Policy initiatives and strengthening of laws to effectively address traditional and emerging threats including climate change.
- Sustainability of Global and National snow leopard programs through capacity building, technology, research, resource mobilization, multi-country information exchange and cooperation among the range countries.
- Monitoring efforts involve two groups of activities: impact and process oriented activities.

**Mr. Andrew Zakharenka** presented approach to GSLEP’s program monitoring using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). He mentioned that the approach note was shared and confirmed by the range countries earlier. Achieving the GSLEP’s goal by 2020 will require rigorous monitoring efforts at three levels: (i) at the landscape level through biological monitoring of the cats, their prey species, and habitats; (ii) at the national level through institutional monitoring of implementation of the 12 National Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programs (NSLEPs) that are basis of the GSLEP; and (iii) at the Steering Committee level through GSLEP’s program monitoring using KPIs. In the Bishkek Declaration, the snow leopard range country governments agreed “to form a high-level Steering Committee to guide Program implementation, regularly review its progress, and maintain a strong political commitment to its objectives.” KPIs will be a short set of indicators (about 10-15) that will give the Steering Committee a comprehensive understanding of the **current status** and **progress in implementation** of the GSLEP over its seven-year period. KPIs will serve as a basis for making collective decisions range-wide and mobilizing political support and financial resources for prioritized national agendas.

**Mr. Koustubh Sharma** presented an analysis of national indicators that were collated from the National Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Priorities (NSLEPs). He mentioned that there is a convergence on a number of monitoring areas highlighted in national indicators of a number of countries, such as China, Russia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Mongolia. There are also gaps that need to be further analyzed and developed.

It was agreed that a Working Group consisting of National Focal Points of nominated experts will develop the first draft the KPIs taking into consideration the analysis of national indicators and discussion held during the workshop by end of July 2014. Currently the working group includes NFPs from Russia, India, Mongolia, and Pakistan, though other countries are welcome to participate. **Mr. Koustubh Sharma** will coordinate the Working Group on the Secretariat side.

Global support to the range countries on monitoring during 2014-15 will be in the form of the following activities (for details see the Two-year Implementation Plan 2014-15):

<b>Global Priority Activity</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
1. Communication and information exchange, KPIs	Facilitating the compilation and exchange of information on the Global Program with all range countries and partners
2. Landscape-level management planning guidelines	Providing a resource to range countries for management planning of large landscapes that require multi-sectorial cooperation
3. Valuation of Ecosystem services	Describing and quantifying the value of ecosystem services in snow leopard landscapes
4. Community-based conservation and monitoring	Enhancing information exchange on best practices and capacity enhancement in community-based conservation
5. Monitoring snow leopard, prey, and threats	Capacity enhancement in field monitoring principles and methods

Session 6. Supporting National Actions against Illegal Trade (linking Global Support Component A to National Actions)

**Ms. Ioana Botezatu** and **Ms. Liliana Juc** presented the role and activities of INTERPOL's Environmental Security Sub-Directorate. The presentation has been focused on Project PREDATOR, aiming to combat the illegal poaching and trade in Asian Big Cats<sup>2</sup>, including for instance the snow leopards. INTERPOL, as an international organization with 190 member countries, will continue to support the global law enforcement community in the fight against transnational crimes. **Mr. Ulanbek Kudaibergenov** spoke on behalf of National Central Bureau (NCB) Bishkek. He explained the activities of an NCB and how they cooperate with the member countries in combating the transnational crimes. INTERPOL explained that the national, regional and international cooperation to combat illegal poaching and trade is essential for the conservation of snow leopards.

INTERPOL mentioned that for a better cooperation and action implementation between different stakeholders at the national level, countries are encouraged to host a National Environmental Security Seminar. The aim of the Seminar is to identify priorities and develop strategies for combating environmental crime at the national level. The event is designed to lead to the formation of a National Environmental Security Steering Committee and a National Environmental Security Task Force. INTERPOL highlighted that the value of a NEST allows defining common objectives for different authorities. Once common objectives are established, a better cooperation should exist by sharing the information, responsibilities as well as the competencies of all stakeholders involved. The role of INTERPOL's NCB in the NEST is vital for international outreach as NCBs provide a global and mandated enforcement communications channel through INTERPOL's I-24/7 system.

At the workshop INTERPOL announced key activities to launch global and regional support of relevant national activities in collaboration with Government of range countries (for details see the Two-year Implementation Plan 2014-15):

<b>Global Priority Activity</b>	<b>Objective</b>
1. Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit	To assess national responses to wildlife crime and identify avenues for improvement as well as share current national best practices within the community
2. Undertake national consultations	To strengthen national legislation and ensure a robust legal framework for wildlife compliance and enforcement
3. Operationalize transnational investigative group on snow leopard	To create a regional core network for consultation, planning and deployment including analysts and investigators
4. Capacity Building	To provide technical support to border and customs officials on tracking illegal trade; to organize transboundary training workshop on detecting illegal wildlife trade for border and customs officials

<sup>2</sup> The CITES Secretariat has further informed about the new documents on Asian Big Cats planned to be presented at its next Standing Committee meeting on July 7-11, 2014 in Geneva: the Secretariat's document: <http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/65/E-SC65-38.pdf>; full report on the implementation of the CITES resolution: <http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/65/E-SC65-38-A01.pdf>.

<b>Global Priority Activity</b>	<b>Objective</b>
5. Awareness raising	To elevate and include wildlife and environmental issues in national security strategies, generating funds for proper law enforcement. Wildlife offenses become common violations of the criminal code
6. National and Multi-disciplinary Law Enforcement	To develop formal relationships where relevant, to jointly enforce wildlife laws: information and intelligence sharing, enforcement operations

The workshop underlined the need to initiate national dialogue and collaboration by bringing together all stakeholders in a one day seminar in each range country. Participants endorsed the necessity for a multi-agency collaboration. Mongolia was the first country to express the willingness to organize a National Environmental Security Seminar in the near future.

The creation of a regional Transnational Investigative Group for planning and deployment for Snow Leopard Range Countries (including analysts and lead investigators) was also initially supported by the representative of Mongolian government.

#### Session 7. Leadership Modules 3 & 4: Net Map, or How do Stakeholders support or undermine the Initiative?

The Leadership groups were asked to consider the main actors involved and the specific levels of influence each actor currently played in supporting or negating their ability to achieve their vision of success. Each group developed a specific question that would be used to Net-Map the political economy as well as identifying how the actors were connected (informal and formal links), and the level of influence they played. Group 1: who influences community actions that harmonize community happiness with the sustainability of Snow Leopards and their prey? Group 2: who influences improvement of the coordination, cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable land management? And Group 3: who influences implementation of national laws? Once mapped, the groups learned and practiced how to segment out particular actors or groups of actors that would be most beneficial to spend their time and resources trying to influence, to ensure they supported the reform process. Groups then learned about Strategic Communications and the importance of framing and crafting their message in such a way as to appeal directly to the actor's agenda and needs, and therefore increase the probability of them supporting the reform.

#### **DAY 4. Linking Global Support to National Priorities (cont.)**

**Mr. Koustubh Sharma** introduced the objectives of the day – identify global support to the national actions in transboundary cooperation and in supporting awareness and coalition building in large scale infrastructure, as well as understand rapid results approach in implementation.

#### Session 8. Supporting National Actions in Transboundary Cooperation (linking Global Support Component C to National Actions)

**Mr. Bert Lenten**, Convention on Migratory Species and **Ms. Tanya Rosen**, Panthera briefly presented current objectives, ongoing work and operational models for trans-boundary co-operations. They highlighted that when threats are transboundary, their solutions also need to be looked at in the

same perspective. . They noted the importance of synergies between NGOs, IGOs and governments to initiate and take forward processes of transboundary cooperation. Government engagement and support from relevant Ministries of Foreign Affairs is critical to formalizing such processes. IGOs can provide a critical platform for bringing countries and relevant stakeholders together with technical advice from NGOs. **Mr. Sathyakumar Sambandam**, India described the efforts being put in place by ICIMOD in identifying and collaborative management of up to 5 trans-boundary landscapes (4 with snow leopard habitats) shared between Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh. **Ms. Irina Fominykh**, Russia presented their experience on the trans-boundary landscape that they are working closely with their neighbors, the issues they are facing and the possibilities of making progress by using existing treaties.

Global support to the range countries on transboundary cooperation during 2014-15 will be in the form of the following activities (for details see the Two-year Implementation Plan 2014-15):

<b>Global Priority Activity</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
1. Pamir Transboundary Conservation Initiative	- Establish a 4-country framework for transboundary collaboration for the conservation of snow leopards and argali sheep.
2. GEF Project "Conservation of Big Cats in the Russian Federation"	- Develop joint transboundary conservation program for snow leopard in the border area of Russia and Mongolia
3. Mitigating cross-border trade in snow leopards	- Developing best practices towards mitigation of cross-border snow leopard trade - Identify triggers of illegal trade on snow leopard products - Identify options within inter-governmental cooperation mechanisms available to control illegal trade (e.g. SAWEN and INTERPOL).
4. CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative: A dialogue process and framework for regional cooperation and enhanced transboundary conservation of migratory mammals and their habitat.	- Enhance the conservation of migratory mammals in the region and strengthen the implementation of CMS through a joint program of work for countries and stakeholders.
5. Implementing the CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative	- Establish a suitable coordination mechanism - Secure funding for prioritized conservation actions
6. Range States meeting to adopt and kick-start implementation of the International Action Plan for the Conservation of Argali <i>Ovis ammon</i>	- Improve the conservation and sustainable management of argali and its habitat throughout its range.
7. Supporting Tajikistan to lead on Transboundary Cooperation on Snow Leopards	- Promote and stimulate increased cooperation and communication between neighboring range states - Build the capacity of range states through training, mentoring and network development

Session 9. Supporting Awareness and Coalition Building in Large Scale Infrastructure (linking Global Support Component E to National Actions)

**Mr. Gary McMahon**, World Bank presented findings of a preliminary analysis of large scale infrastructure projects on the snow leopard habitats. He first described specifics of mining project planning and potential impacts associated with it, then presented the existing maps and databases with information on current and planned infrastructure in snow leopard habitats, and concluded with an outline of possible support activities and mitigation measures. He pointed out that most of the range countries do have environmental legislation that regulates mining and building infrastructure but it varies in its comprehensiveness and capacity to implement and control. As a follow up actions, it was agreed to:

- (i) as strongly encouraged by Russia – collate existing information on major ongoing and upcoming infrastructure projects and lay it over the snow leopard range map so that it could be shared along with the database of these projects with the snow leopard national focal points of the range countries for verification and further engaging with the relevant sectors at national level;
- (ii) collate and analyze national legislation and institutions relevant to infrastructure development from each of 12 countries;
- (iii) conduct an economic valuation of the snow leopard landscapes, regionally where appropriate and build upon pilot valuations being conducted in Kyrgyz Republic and India;
- (iv) encourage policy and practical discussions at national level between conservationists and infrastructure agencies and private business;
- (v) raise the issue of artisan uncontrolled mining and associated with it wildlife poaching activities;
- (vi) consider upcoming course on Smart Green Infrastructure in Natural Habitats being prepared by the WB / GTI.

Session 10. Leadership Modules 5 & 6: Rapid Results Approach, or How do we get the Implementation Team to commit to Results?

The Leadership groups learned about Rapid Results, how the approach is tailored specifically to deal with the adaptive challenges implementation teams face on the ground, and how it can safely bring about a series of results under pressure and in a very short time frame. Groups discussed how to identify an area where Rapid Results would provide value and the mechanics of the approach, but did not have time to practice on their own specific threats.

**DAY 5. Results and Closing**

Session 11: Announcing Two-Year NPAs: Setting National and Global Priority Activities 2014-15

Range countries and partners presented brief summaries of their National (NPAs) and Global Priority Activities (GPAs) for 2014-15 during this session. The full description of these plans can be found in the Two Year Implementation Plan.

Session 12: Summing up progress towards GSLEP implementation, Next Steps, Closing

**Mr. Bakhtyar Abdiev**, Kyrgyz Republic chaired the session which concluded the Workshop with the key results and next steps. It was acknowledged and reconfirmed again that the strength of the snow leopard initiative is in maintaining collective efforts and coordination of the activities driven and led by the Governments of the range countries with financial and technical support of donors and partners. He and **Ms. Irina Fominykh** (Russia) recommended that **Mr. Keshav Varma** should be on the steering committee.

## Annex

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