



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Date: July 30, 2026



Project Name	Integrated Community-based Management of High Value Mountain Ecosystems in Southern Kyrgyzstan for Multiple Benefits
Description of Services Requested	SLT is seeking the services of a qualified and experienced organization, consortium, academic institution, or individual consultant to conduct an analysis of projected climate impacts on biodiversity and implications for the Protected Area network in the Pamir-Alai region of Kyrgyzstan using the SPARC methodology (Activity 1.1.5)
Location	Remote/Hybrid
Type of Contract	Service
Person(s) to review/inspect/approve deliverables/completed services and authorize the disbursement of payment	SLT Science and Conservation Director SLT Senior Conservation Scientist
Currency of Proposal	United States Dollars (US\$)
Target Start Date	October, 2026
Desired Completion Date	March, 2027

BACKGROUND

Through funding from the Global Environment Facility (“GEF”) and the UNDP TRAC funds, and as implemented by the Kyrgyz Republic’s Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (“MNRETS”) with assistance from UNDP, the objective of the project is to secure high value mountain ecosystem biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, while ensuring resilient and sustainable livelihoods in Kyrgyzstan’s Pamir-Alai landscape. The project addresses key threats to sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation in mountain forest and pasture ecosystems, including Key Biodiversity Areas (“KBAs”). It will deliver global environmental benefits through a participatory approach, promoting equitable participation opportunities for women, youth, and vulnerable groups. The project aligns with the Land Degradation Neutrality (“LDN”) conceptual framework, applying the avoid-reduce-reverse principle. Strengthening Protected Area (“PA”) management and improving spatial land use planning embody the "avoid" principle, while enhanced forest and pasture management reflects the "reduce" principle. Expected outcomes include improved management and biodiversity

conservation within six KBAs covering 866,000 hectares. The project will contribute to establishing four new national-level protected areas (PAs) covering 281,083.79 hectares and support improved management effectiveness of five existing PAs covering 153,250 hectares. Additionally, it will improve the management of 563,949 hectares of high conservation value forest (HCVF) lands, including 500 hectares of degraded forest, and 621,905 hectares of pastures, including 19,500 hectares of degraded pastures. These efforts are expected to benefit 94,883 people while enhancing the conservation status of globally significant biodiversity and supporting Kyrgyzstan's progress toward LDN.

The project comprises four components:

- Component 1: Integrated Landscape Planning and Management for Sustainable and Resilient Livelihoods in the Pamir-Alai and LDN. This component focuses on ensuring ecosystem services and 1 sustainable livelihood in the Pamir-Alai landscape through improved land use planning and management.
- Component 2: Strengthening Key Biodiversity Areas. This component aims to secure the sustainability of critical Pamir-Alai Mountain ecosystems.
- Component 3: Knowledge Management and International Engagement. This component emphasizes enhanced cooperation and knowledge sharing, supporting Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and building the conservation community of practice nationally and regionally.
- Component 4: Project-Level Monitoring and Evaluation. This component ensures project activities are monitored and evaluated in accordance with UNDP and GEF requirements.

Under this project framework, SLT is responsible for the following project outputs:

- **Output 1.1.** Landscape-level integrated land use management approaches for Pamir-Alai landscape design and under implementation.
- **Output 1.4.** SFM and LDN-focused enabling environment through amendment of local rules and regulations on forestry and land use.
- **Output 2.4.** Community-based conservation mechanisms established and implemented, including wildlife monitoring, enforcement and awareness raising.
- **Output 3.1.** Modules on biodiversity conservation and integrated land management for LDN integrated in publicity, vocational training, and higher education systems.
- **Output 3.2.** International coordination and information sharing, including support for future development of transboundary biodiversity conservation in Pamir-Alai.

This assignment is part of Activity 1.1.5 — Analysis of projected climate impacts on biodiversity, and implications for the Protected Area network in the Pamir-Alai by using the SPARC methodology. The SPARC (Spatial Planning for Protected Areas in Response to Climate Change) methodology was developed under a GEF Targeted Research project requested by the GEF Science and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP). It has been applied to tropical forest regions and has high relevance for highly biodiverse temperate mountain ecosystems such as the Mountains of Central Asia Biodiversity Hotspot. Findings from this analysis will constitute a key evidence base for the Integrated Sustainable Land Use Management Framework (Output 1.1) and will directly inform management recommendations for MNRETS and 10 district administrations across the Pamir-Alai landscape.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this assignment is to conduct a rigorous, reproducible SPARC analysis for the Pamir-Alai region of Kyrgyzstan that:

- Models the current and future distribution of key indicator species under climate change scenarios
- Identifies priority areas for biodiversity conservation now and in the future
- Delineates climate corridors enabling species to migrate and adapt under projected climate change
- Produces spatial prioritization outputs informing PA network management and landscape-level planning
- Delivers actionable management recommendations for MNRETS and 10 district administrations

Findings from the SPARC analysis may be scaled up to the national or regional level depending on the feasible geographic scope established during implementation. Results will also serve as a direct input to the Ecological Framework of the Pamir-Alai being developed under Activity 1.1.1.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Following the SPARC approach developed under a previous GEF project (outlined in Hannah *et al.* 2020), the proposed methodology for the work is:

- **Step 1 - Data Assembly & Gap Assessment** Compile species presence and detection/non-detection data for target indicator species, including: camera trap data collected by SLFK under Activity 1.1.4, occurrence data from existing databases, and climate, topography, and land cover covariates for current and future SSP scenarios. Conduct a data gap assessment and coordinate with SLT on targeted gap-filling field surveys where needed.
- **Step 2 - Species Distribution Modelling** Model the current and future distribution of target species using robust methods - occupancy modelling or integrated species distribution modelling combining presence-only data with detection/non-detection data. Presence-only modelling should be avoided where possible. Input covariates to include relevant climate variables, topography, and land cover. Outputs to include species distribution maps for current and future time periods under multiple SSP scenarios.
- **Step 3 - Spatial Prioritization (Zonation)** Use Zonation to identify priority areas for each species that are important: (i) now; (ii) in the future under climate change; and (iii) as climate corridors connecting current and future priority areas. Run Zonation in two modes: species distributions inside protected areas only; and full species distributions across the landscape. Overlay maps for each species to identify multi-species climate corridors under both modes.
- **Step 4 — Output Mapping & Reporting** Produce output maps showing: Level I Priority areas for connectivity among protected areas under climate change; Level II Priority areas connecting important areas outside protected areas. Prepare a final report with methods, results, interpretation, and management recommendations.

Key references for the work:

Hannah, L., Roehrdanz, P. R., Marquet, P. A., Enquist, B. J., Midgley, G., Foden, W., ... & Svenning, J. C. (2020). 30% land conservation and climate action reduces tropical extinction risk by more than 50%. *Ecography*, 43(7), 943-953.

Kujala, H., Moilanen, A., Araújo, M. B., & Cabeza, M. (2013). Conservation planning with uncertain climate change projections. *PloS one*, 8(2), e53315.

Buenafe, K. C. V., Dunn, D. C., Metaxas, A., Schoeman, D. S., Everett, J. D., Pidd, A., ... & Richardson, A. J. (2025). Current approaches and future opportunities for climate-smart protected areas. *Nature Reviews Biodiversity*, 1-14.

SCOPE OF WORK, DELIVERABLES, AND TIME FRAME

Scope of Work	Deliverables	Indicators	Completion Date	Payment
Activity 1. Inception report: The service provider reviews all available spatial data compiled under Activity 1.1.1, conducts a data gap assessment, and proposes the full analytical workplan. Regular progress meetings with SLT initiated.	Inception Report detailing: proposed workplan and timeline; modelling approach and species selection; datasets and sources; identified data gaps and gap-filling approach; SSP climate scenarios to be applied. Methodology submitted for written approval by SLT prior to commencing analysis. Coordination with the project Climate Change Analyst established to ensure alignment of climate inputs.	Inception Report accepted by SLT and project partners in writing. Proposed methodology formally approved.	October 15, 2026	10%
Activity 2. Interim report: Service provider conducts species distribution modelling for a representative subset of target species and runs preliminary Zonation prioritization. Results shared with SLT for structured feedback prior to full analysis.	Interim report presenting: species distribution models for current and future time periods for a subset of species; preliminary Zonation outputs; initial identification of candidate climate corridors; description of any methodological adjustments since Inception Report.	Interim report accepted by SLT and project partners in writing. Feedback documented and incorporated into final analysis.	November 15, 2026	40%

Activity 3. Service provider completes full SPARC analysis for all target species and produces final report with management recommendations for MNRETS and 10 district administrations. Presentation delivered to SLT and project partners.	Comprehensive final report in English covering: full methods and analytical workflow; SDM outputs for all species under current and future SSP scenarios; Zonation results in both modes (inside PAs only; full landscape); multi-species climate corridors (Level I and Level II priorities); specific management recommendations for MNRETS and 10 district administrations. All R code and input data for reproducibility. Output maps (jpeg + raster/vector files). Presentation to SLT and partners.	Final report and all deliverables accepted by SLT in writing. Final report transmitted to SLT for integration into the Regional Ecological Framework of the Pamir-Alai (Activity 1.1.1)	February 28, 2027	50%
Activity 4. Coordination with Project Climate Change Analyst	Regular coordination with the project Climate Change Analyst throughout the assignment, including: sharing of analytical progress at key stages; joint review of climate data inputs used in species distribution modelling; and knowledge exchange on the SPARC methodology to build local technical capacity in climate-smart conservation planning.	Coordination documented in meeting notes / progress updates shared with SLT.	Ongoing throughout contract period	
		TOTAL		100%

PROVIDER'S QUALIFICATIONS

The selected service provider (organization, consortium, or academic institution) must demonstrate the following qualifications and competencies to successfully implement the proposed activities:

1. Overall Technical Expertise

- Team comprising of expertise with advanced degrees (minimum MSc, ideally PhD/post-doc) in relevant fields such as wildlife ecology/biology, conservation science, or quantitative ecology
- Proven experience and publication record in the analysis of spatial ecological data, including data analysis, modeling and visualization.

- Demonstrated capacity to develop complex data analysis workflows using reproducible, code-based approaches in the R statistical language, as well as analyses and mapping in ArcGIS/QGIS as needed
- Well-versed in methods and tools for handling ecological data, climate data, and spatial prioritisation.

2. Species distribution modelling

- Proven experience in the modelling of species distributions, ideally using occupancy modelling or integrated approaches combining presence-only and detection/non-detection data
- Thorough understanding of the required inputs and assumptions for robust modelling of species distributions

3. Spatial prioritisation and protected area planning

- Proven experience and understanding of spatial prioritisation tools (e.g. Zonation or prioritizr) in an ecological context
- Demonstrated ability to produce visually engaging maps of prioritisation outputs (e.g. maps of priority areas, corridors, administrative boundaries etc.)
- Direct experience with or demonstrated understanding of the SPARC methodology and its application to PA network planning under climate change — strong advantage

4. Communication and Results Sharing

- Experience in translating scientific knowledge into practical recommendations and outputs that can be used by non-scientists, including conservation practitioners and government staff.
- Ability to share and promote results through engaging and clear reports, figures, maps and presentations as needed.

5. Regional Experience

- Prior working experience in Central Asia, preferably in the Inner Tian Shan and Pamir-Alai regions, is an advantage.
- Knowledge of local socio-ecological dynamics, institutional frameworks, and cultural considerations is an advantage.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Overall evaluation of the bid will be based on the best value (and not necessarily lowest price) as determined by the Snow Leopard Trust including technical expertise, overall reputation and qualifications of the service provider, budget/financial proposal, and any other situationally specific experience/qualifications.

DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING PROPOSAL:

1. **Technical Proposal** (in English) including:
 - (i) Description of relevant qualifications, expertise, and track record with specific examples
 - (ii) Proposed methodology and analytical approach, including description of modelling methods, species to be modelled, climate scenarios to be used, and spatial prioritization approach
 - (iii) Proposed workplan with timeline aligned to deliverable dates
 - (iv) Examples of previous relevant work (publications, reports, or maps)
2. **Financial Proposal** specifying the proposed total contract value structured according to the Payment Schedule (3 instalments as outlined above), with a brief breakdown of costs by deliverable
3. **CV(s)** of lead analyst(s) including publication list
4. **List of 2 professional references**

Proposals should be submitted by email to procurement@snowleopard.org no later than September 30, 2026. Any requests for clarification must be sent in writing to the same address.