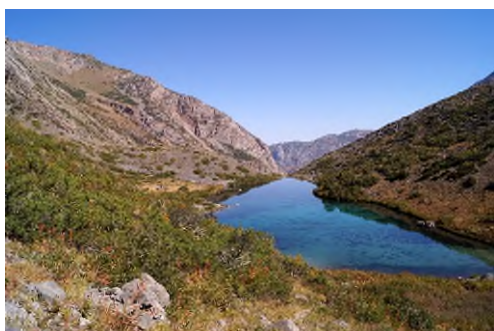




PROJECT INFORMATION

Enhancing Cooperation for Conservation Impact in the Western Tien-Shan



Western Tien-Shan, Sayram-Ugam State National Park, Uzbekistan

Source: IUCN/Elena Osipova

Background

The Western Tien-Shan was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2016. In response to a request by the World Heritage Committee to strengthen the transboundary management of the site, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding in early 2019. As a result, a dedicated working group was established, comprising representatives from the relevant authorities as well as scientific and nature conservation organizations. The group's objective was to develop a joint five-year Management Framework for the site. This document is intended to guide the development of national management plans and to support transboundary conservation efforts.

Project details

The overall goal of the project was to strengthen conservation efforts and improve the transboundary management of the Western Tien-Shan World Heritage site. The approach focused on establishing a shared management framework, delivering targeted training, and fostering cooperation among a wide range of stakeholders including protected area managers, government representatives, local communities, civil society and international organizations. As a member of the site's regional committee, IUCN supported the development of an effective transboundary management plan by leading the creation of a joint framework document. IUCN ECARO also delivered trainings on transboundary conservation, the application of the IUCN Green List Standard, fundraising strategies, and the use of GIS tools, all aimed at addressing existing management gaps. This capacity development enables more effective networking in the conservation sector and can be directly translated into action on the ground, resulting in improved conservation outcomes and long-term impact.

Updated: June 2025

Project countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan

Duration: 04/2022 – 03/2024

Beneficiaries: Government authorities and protected area management staff of nine protected areas within the Western Tien-Shan World Heritage Site

Implementing organisation: IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECARO) in cooperation with IUCN World Heritage Programme

Project number: 168277

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Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

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