

Pakistan

Strengthening Governance and Capacity for Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade in Pakistan

Species Focus Freshwater turtles, Saker falcon, peregrine falcon, Indian pangolins, Galliformes – black & grey partridges, carnivores-snow leopard, grey wolf, brown bear

Grant Amount \$2.7 million

Executing Partners Ministry of Climate Change, WWF, IUCN, provincial wildlife departments, Pakistan Customs

GEF Implementing Agency IUCN

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Expected Start Date 1 May 2022

Context

Pakistan is home to many rare and endemic species and is a target for poaching and illegal wildlife trade (IWT); weak regulatory framework including enforcement, and inter-agency coordination to address trafficking and IWT; lack of institutional and personnel capacities and facilities to reduce poaching, IWT, rescue and rehabilitation of confiscated wildlife, investigation and prosecution of crime cases ; and lack of awareness when it comes to ecological and economic importance of wildlife within the local communities and not engaging them in combating poaching and trafficking from wildlife sites are some of the threats and barriers to survival and sustainability of wildlife populations. The major causes to these include lack of alternative livelihoods and priority of short term needs over long term gains including ecosystem services in the scenario of rampant poverty, growing domestic and international demand for wild animals, their parts, products and derivatives accompanied by sky high prices and all kinds of support and patronage received by poachers, traffickers, dealers and traders from influential persons and main beneficiaries.

Objective

To curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Pakistan.

Project Components

- Strengthen regulatory frameworks and interagency coordination to address poaching and illegal wildlife trade: supporting a wildlife crime and trade monitoring network at the national level, and establishing a database to collect actionable IWT trade information.
- Build institutional capacities and establish facilities to detect, prevent, and control wildlife crime.
- Reduce poaching and illegal trade of key wildlife species in four high priority sites: utilization of tools like SMART and Safe Systems Approach and First Line of Defense.
- Improve awareness, knowledge management, and monitoring mechanisms to curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

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