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## Concept Note

# Conference: Building Resilience for Wildlife and Communities in the Mountains of Central Asia – Results and Upscaling of the Central Asian Mammals and Climate Adaptation (CAMCA) project

22–23 October 2025, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

## Background

The Central Asian Mammals and Climate Adaptation (CAMCA) project is a multi-country initiative funded by the German International Climate Initiative and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in cooperation with international, regional, and national partners across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Launched in 2022, this project aims to enhance the conservation of flagship migratory mammals such as the argali, Asiatic ibex, Bukhara deer, snow leopard, Tian-Shan brown bear and Tian-Shan maral by integrating climate-informed management practices and ecosystem-based adaptation strategies.

The CAMCA project supports climate-resilient protected area planning, fosters community-led conservation and adaptation efforts, and promotes ecological connectivity across Central Asia. It has, among other things, produced vulnerability assessments of mountain species, updated Central Asian Mammals Migration and Linear Infrastructure Atlas of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), helped to establish ecological corridors, developed a Protected Area Vulnerability Assessment (PAVA) tool, piloted the Index for Conservation Efficiency (IBEX) tool developed by IUCN, and supported on-the-ground conservation and adaptation measures.

The conference serves as the culminating event of the 4-year project, offering a platform for regional dialogue, policy exchange, and recognition of key achievements. Timed to coincide with the International Snow Leopard Day (23 October) – the official observance of which was assigned to UNEP – the conference also emphasizes the vital role of public awareness and education in advancing wildlife conservation efforts.

## Objectives

- i. Highlight national and regional level achievements under the CAMCA Project, showcasing progress and impact across participating countries.
- ii. Explore future directions for developing ecological corridors and strengthening community involvement and transboundary cooperation in Central Asia.
- iii. Facilitate knowledge exchange on national and regional policy processes and cross-sectoral integration.

- iv. Discuss avenues for building sustainable financing solutions across the region
- v. Promote public awareness and education by celebrating conservation successes in conjunction with International Snow Leopard Day.

## Dates and Location

Dates: 22–23 October 2025

Venue: *TBC*, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Languages: English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

The conference will gather project partners and warmly invite a broad range of stakeholders engaged in wildlife conservation and sustainable development, including:

- Representatives from the environmental ministries and environmental agencies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
- National and international conservation experts
- Local stakeholders and community representatives
- Researchers, youth advocates for the environment, and community leaders
- Intergovernmental and regional platforms active in Central Asia
- Representatives of donor organizations and development agencies
- National and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

