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Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
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IKI INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT ON THE CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION (CAMCA) PROJECT

A Statement of Intent from the participants of the 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" held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 22-23 October 2025, to promote climate-resilient biodiversity conservation and community development in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan

Supported by the conference participants: Representatives of national governments, national and international non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental agencies, academia and research institutions, representatives of local communities and protected area management representatives of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan.

I. Preamble and Acknowledgment

Considering existing commitments under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),

Recognizing the critical need to promote climate-resilient biodiversity conservation and community development to effectively address the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation,

Recalling UN General Assembly Resolution 75/271 "Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation - a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use",

We, Participants of the 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*' (hereinafter – CAMCA Conference), recognize that the unique mountain ecosystems and flagship migratory mountain species of Central Asia are acutely vulnerable to accelerating impacts of climate change, including habitat degradation, impeded migration routes, and increased resource competition.

We affirm the foundational success achieved through the CAMCA project in building local, national, and regional capacity, strengthening protected area network resilience, developing climate-informed management tools (e.g. the Protected Area Vulnerability Assessment (PAVA) tool and the wildlife-friendly pasture management tool), and strengthening ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures with strong community involvement.

This Joint Statement of Intent formalizes our shared vision and commitment to elevate this work to the next level of transboundary cooperation, policy integration, and on-the-ground action for the long-term resilience of our natural heritage and the well-being of our mountain communities.

II. Declaration of Future Action

The Participants recommend deepening and accelerating the implementation of climate-informed conservation and sustainable development land management actions across the region, focusing on four interlinked thematic packages.

Under each theme, we commit to targeted activities across five critical areas: Policy Integration, On-the-Ground Implementation, Capacity Building, Education, and Communication.

For a detailed breakdown of suggested activities for each theme, please refer to **Annex A: CAMCA Statement of Intent – Implementation Suggestions**.

Theme 1: Protected Area Network Resilience

We commit to ensuring that observed and projected changes in weather and climate are integrated into protected area management planning processes (e.g. using the PAVA tool, the establishment of corridors, etc.). In addition, to further increase protected area resilience, we commit to proactively enable surrounding communities' participation in protected area management and integrate their climate change adaptation needs into protected area management planning processes. This will increase chance of sustained local support towards protected areas. Hence, our focus will be on institutionalizing the requirement for these climate-smart approaches and the integration of EbA measures for surrounding communities that support the effectiveness of the protected area networks. This is vital to securing the future of our most critical mountain habitats.

Theme 2: Climate-Smart Ecological Corridors

We understand that ecological connectivity between natural areas (including within and between our existing protected areas) is critical to ensure the resulting networks remain effective sanctuaries for biodiversity in a changing climate. Building on existing commitments, such as those identified in the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) of CMS, National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Priorities, and other relevant frameworks, we commit to improving ecological connectivity between ecosystems within and between countries, and endeavour for a cross-sectoral adoption of biodiversity-friendly management approaches in these networks. This includes the official designation of climate-smart ecological corridors at the national as well as transboundary level, backed by governance and management models that include local communities. This shared commitment is essential to ensure flagship species like the snow leopard, Bukhara deer and argali, among others can adapt to climate-driven changes in their habitats.

Theme 3: Community Resilience and Adaptation

We recognize that the resilience of local communities in and around protected areas is intrinsically linked to the health of the ecosystems they depend upon, as well as to the availability of economic opportunities. Our focus will be on promoting diverse, biodiversity-friendly, and climate-informed alternative economic activities that reduce prevent mountain pasture degradation, human-wildlife conflict, and reduce livelihood vulnerability. For example, community-led nature-based ecotourism and other micro-enterprises that support conservation are promoted.

Theme 4: Climate-Smart Grazing Management

Unsustainable livestock grazing puts immense pressure on high-altitude wildlife habitats, threatens watershed health, and increases disaster risks such as drought, floods and mudflows. We are committed to scaling up the use of evidence-based, community-informed tools, such as the wildlife-friendly pasture management tool, to establish sustainable livestock numbers and grazing rotation, and facilitate pasture restoration inside and outside ecological corridors and protected areas.

Crucially, we intend to champion policy coherence reform aimed at adapting of grazing practices to address biodiversity conservation needs and sustainability of pasture ecosystems, supporting alternative income sources to encourage reduction in livestock numbers, increasing accountability for large livestock herds that contribute to overgrazing, and other measures that help to restore the ecological integrity of shared pastures for wildlife and responsible livestock owners alike.

III. Conclusion

We commit to a renewed spirit of cooperation and the mobilization of resources to incorporate these stated intentions in national strategies (including the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and Land Degradation Neutrality Targets (LDNs)), and regional strategies (including those on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and adaptation to climate change), translate them into tangible, measurable results that secure the biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation needs of Central Asia. We call upon all existing and potential international partners to join us in this vital endeavour to conserve the shared heritage and natural wealth of Central Asian mountains for future generations.

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ANNEX A – CAMCA STATEMENT OF INTENT – IMPLEMENTATION SUGGESTIONS

This Annex details the specific recommendations across five critical activity areas (Policy Integration, On-the-Ground Implementation, Capacity Building, Education, and Communication) for each of the four thematic packages outlined in the Joint Statement of Intent.

Theme 1: Protected Area Network Resilience

Objective: To ensure protected area networks remain effective conservation tools by integrating observed and projected changes in weather and climate, as well as community adaptation needs into their management frameworks.

Activity Area	Recommendations
Policy Integration	Institutionalize national requirements for integrating climate change and community participation within protected area management, e.g. through mandating tools like PAVA for climate vulnerability assessment and realising community-based protected area management models (e.g., co-management agreements, community-led protected areas, OECMs) based on national legislation.
On-the-Ground Implementation	Scale up the implementation of the PAVA tool to new, non-pilot sites and implement adaptation measures identified through these assessments, with priority given to Ecosystem-based Adaptations.
Capacity Building	Conduct advanced, practical training programs for protected area staff, government or local community protected area management bodies on applying vulnerability assessment tools and effective monitoring.
Educational Materials	Develop, pilot and roll out specialized curriculum modules in local schools and vocational training centres on mountain species' and ecosystems' vulnerability to climate change, and climate-smart wildlife and protected area management principles.
Communication Activities	Produce and widely disseminate policy briefs, white papers, and detailed case studies on successful protected area resilience strategies to national decision-makers and regional bodies.

Theme 2: Climate-Smart Ecological Corridors

Objective: To safeguard ecological connectivity and migratory routes for flagship species and strengthen national and transboundary protected area networks, by establishing and officially designating a network of functional, climate-resilient ecological corridors.

Activity Area	Recommendations
Policy Integration	Further develop policy frameworks for national ecological corridor networks to increase ecosystem resilience; establish joint working groups to develop transboundary corridor designation and management processes for key ecological corridors, informed by national governance.

On-the-Ground Implementation	Use climate and species data to identify critical wildlife corridors at national and transboundary level; pilot targeted habitat restoration activities (e.g. improving grazing management, removing barriers, restoring water points) in bottlenecks, establish a corridor monitoring system, and harmonise monitoring in identified sites across borders.
Capacity Building	Provide specialized technical training to government agencies (including protected area staff, border and infrastructure development bodies) and local and community organizations on national and transboundary corridor planning, legal frameworks, and management (including monitoring).
Educational Materials	Launch public awareness campaigns and workshops in corridor-adjacent communities to explain the vital importance of migratory routes, the role local communities can play, and the risks posed by habitat fragmentation and climate change.
Communication Activities	Host regular inter-sectoral dialogues between relevant government ministries and sectors, such as finance, forestry, agriculture, or infrastructure/transportation to start developing cross-sectoral approaches for corridor implementation; host regular regional dialogues and technical working group meetings to coordinate transboundary efforts, utilizing existing platforms (e.g. CMS CAMI, GSLEP, etc.), sharing data (such as through the CAMI Infrastructure Atlas) and progress updates transparently among all three countries.

Theme 3: Community Resilience

Objective: To reduce livelihood vulnerability and human-wildlife conflict by promoting diverse, biodiversity-friendly, and climate-informed alternative economic activities.

Activity Area	Commitment
Policy Integration	Advocate for and integrate sustainable climate-smart, biodiversity-friendly livelihoods, such as community-based ecotourism, organic beekeeping, ecologically sustainable local natural resources use, agroforestry and other conservation-related enterprises, into local and regional economic development plans, as part of sustainable financing of conservation efforts.
On-the-Ground Implementation	Continue the successful implementation of EbA and other measures identified via Situation Models; and forge stronger links between these and the conservation of mountain mammals and their habitats.
Capacity Building	Deliver comprehensive vocational training for community members on climate-smart biodiversity-friendly livelihoods, including market chain development for sustainable ecotourism operations and other micro-enterprise. Conduct capacity-building for decision-makers in different sectors and local communities to enhance community involvement and contribution of local businesses to conservation.

Educational Materials	Develop user-friendly materials for communities on climate risk preparedness and establish a community of best practice for ecosystem-based adaptation and sustainable natural resource use.
Communication Activities	Systematically document and widely disseminate success stories and economic benefits derived from climate-smart alternative livelihoods through local, national, and international media channels and improve market access & visibility for biodiversity-friendly local products.

Theme 4: Continuing Climate-Smart Grazing Management

Objective: To reduce pressure on critical wildlife habitats by promoting evidence-based and community-informed sustainable grazing practices in and around Protected Areas.

Activity Area	Commitment
Policy Integration	Develop and support the adoption of national policy recommendations aimed at ensuring accountability and responsibility for livestock herders that contribute to overgrazing in mountain areas. Integrate the conservation status of flagship wildlife species as indictors of overall sustainability of land management, benefits for pasture health and biodiversity.
On-the-Ground Implementation	Scale up the implementation of the wildlife-friendly pasture management approach to new pilot sites, establishing and monitoring evidence-based grazing rotation and restoration/rehabilitation plans.
Capacity Building	Conduct intensive training sessions for local pasture management committees and agricultural extension workers on sustainable, climate-smart grazing techniques and the technical use of the wildlife-friendly grazing management tool.
Educational Materials	Integrate principles of climate-smart pasture management and ecosystem health into vocational training programs for livestock owners, veterinarians, and agricultural schools.
Communication Activities	Ensure all stakeholders, particularly local pasture committees and communities, have transparent access to data, maps, and monitoring reports generated by the pasture management tool to ensure accountability and support adaptive management.