

REPORT
on the Implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre
(Decision: 40 COM 8B.9; Property: Western Tien-Shan)

Background

‘Western Tien-Shan’ is a natural heritage site jointly nominated for the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan. In 2016 Western Tien-Shan was successfully inscribed into the World Heritage List during the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Decision 40 COM 8B.9), which took place in Istanbul, Turkey from 10 to 20 July, on the basis of criterion (x).

Decision 40 COM 8B.9¹

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC/16/40.COM/8B and WHC/16/40.COM/INF.8B2,*
2. ***Inscribes Western Tien-Shan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (x);***
3. *Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:*

Brief synthesis

Western Tien-Shan represents an exceptional diversity and beauty of a mosaic of landscapes, a unique combination of different types of ecosystems, outstanding diversity of fauna and flora with a considerable proportion of endemic species and communities, as well as a large number of rare and threatened species.

It is among most species rich sites in the Pamir-Tien-Shan Highlands province and close to half of its species are endemic to Middle Asia.

Western Tien-Shan has an exceptional value as a centre of origin of cultivated plants. It is home to a number of wild species related to domesticated fruit plants including wild apples, apricot, pistachio, vine, plum, pear, walnut and hawthorn.

Criterion (x): *The Western Tien-Shan supports outstanding diversity of plant and animal species with high level of endemism and many species of global conservation importance.*

The vertebrate biodiversity found in the region of Western Tien Shan includes 61 species of mammals, 316 species of birds, 17 species of reptiles, 3 species of amphibians and more than 20 fish species, and almost all of these species are reported as occurring in the area of the property.

*The Western Tien-Shan supports 14 species of flora and 18 of fauna listed as globally threatened by IUCN. These include several wild relatives of today’s commercial fruit trees such as wild apricot *Armeniaca vulgaris* (EN), Siever’s apple *Malus sieversii* (VU) and walnut *Juglans regia**

¹ whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6788/

(NT), as well as other rare species, such as *Crataegus knorringiana* (CR); *Lonicera karataviensis* (CR), *Betula talassica* (EN), *Spiraeanthus schrenkianus* (EN) etc. Among the fauna, these are saker falcon *Falco cherrug* (EN), Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus* (EN), cinereous vulture *Aegypius monachus* (NT), charismatic snow leopard *Uncia uncia* (EN), wild sheep *Ovis ammon* with two subspecies (*nigrimontana* at Karatau - 80% of the global population - and *karelini*), Menzbier's marmot *Marmota menzbieri*, European marbled polecat *Vormela peregusna* (VU). Invertebrates have high level of endemism.

Integrity

Protected areas included in the property have adequate level of protection corresponding to IUCN categories Ia and II.

Individual components of the property are sufficient to jointly maintain functioning of natural systems of Western Tien-Shan and fully represent the properties and processes that reflect their significance.

The main pressures to the property are poaching, cattle grazing, illegal logging, haying, illegal harvesting of flowers etc. The typical kinds of natural disasters in the Western Tien-Shan are rock falls, landslides, mudslides, avalanches; droughts lead to fires in dry years. Some parts of the property are surrounded by highly populated areas and as result they have possibility for good number of visitors from one side and threat from uncontrolled recreation from other side. In all the protected areas these threats and pressures are taken into consideration in management plans and the staff is regularly trained for control and adequate reaction in case of disasters.

Protection and management requirements

All components of the property are state protected areas of national importance and are protected under national legislations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Reserves have status of strictly protected natural areas, where any use of animals and plants and any economic activities are prohibited. Also, a very limited access of visitors, obligatory accompanied by protected areas inspectors and only in specially designated areas is allowed. Sayram-Ugam national park has areas with the same strictly protected regimes as in reserves, as well areas accessible for visitors and for strictly limited use of nature. All areas of Western Tien-Shan are properties of the government, each of them have its own administration and staff and they are managed by an authorised state executive bodies of each country with funding from the state budgets.

The property as a whole will be managed by a transboundary Steering Committee (consisting of representatives of the protected areas and of responsible governmental bodies) with the main role for coordination of conservation and management efforts, exchange of experience and information. The Committee will be established shortly after inscription of Western Tien-Shan in the World Heritage List and will work as intergovernmental group with scheduled meetings (at least once a year) and teleconferences.

4. Requests the States Parties to:

- a) *finalize the transboundary management framework for the property, which details, at an appropriate level, integrated protection and management measures including establishment of a joint steering committee and which can be implemented through the respective national level policy and planning processes, and is fully harmonized with the protection and management plans for each of the selected component parts;*
 - b) *further develop collaboration between the States Parties in the framework of a tripartite Memorandum for management of the property to be signed between the States Parties of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, and include specific targets and timelines that would strengthen cooperation at field operational and technical levels,*
 - c) *work in consultation with IUCN to build capacity on transnational management of the property;*
 - d) *review and rationalize the boundaries of the components of the property and their buffer zones to ensure that they fully correspond to criterion (x), follow ecological principles and address connectivity, and submit a boundary modification proposal in due course to reflect this;*
5. Encourages the States Parties to consider the potential of the property to also meet criterion (ix);
6. Requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2017** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

Report

The Republic of Kazakhstan continues the work in field of protection and management of three components of the Western Tien-Shan on its territory – National Park of Sayram-Ugam, Karatau and Aksu-Zhabagly Natural Reserves (see **Attachment 1**) according to the current working plans. This work was supported by previously planned state financial support.

4. a) and b) Main efforts of the Republic of Kazakhstan were concentrated on the preparation and the signature of the tripartite Memorandum (drafted in the Russian language) for management of the property between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

First draft of the Memorandum was developed by Mr. Sergey Sklyarenko (Expert of the National World Heritage Committee under the auspices of the National World Heritage Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO) in January 2016 and was agreed with Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan – the Authorized Body for management of the Specially Protected Natural Areas. In December 2016, after the inscription of the property into the World Heritage List, this text was profoundly changed by Mr. Sergey Sklyarenko in order to correspond to the Decision 40 COM 8B.9 of the World Heritage Committee. Among other things, it was complemented with a draft of an Action plan and deadlines for implementation of its stages.

In February 2017 the new draft of the Memorandum was agreed with the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan – the Authorized Body for management of the Specially Protected Natural Areas represented by Acting Chair – Mr. Kairat Ustemirov, and the National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO represented by Secretary-General – Mrs. Assel Utegenova. This text was also sent to the National Commissions for UNESCO of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In June 2017, the Republic of Kazakhstan prepared the final of the Memorandum (see **Attachment 2**) in order to add a few modifications proposed by the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan and sent in back to them in July 2017. At that moment Secretary-General of the National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO made a proposition to sign the final text of Memorandum during the Global Show Leopard Forum, which was to take place in August 2017 in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic). Unfortunately, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan were both not prepared to sign the Memorandum at that moment.

Finally, in February 2018, National Commission for UNESCO of the Kyrgyz Republic sent the information on the signing of the Memorandum (see **Attachment 3**). From the Kyrgyz Republic, the Memorandum was signed by the Authorized Body – State Department for Protection of the Environment and Forestry, as authorized by the Decree of the Prime Minister – Mr. Sapar (see

Attachment 4). The calendar Action plan was modified after the signing of the Memorandum by Kyrgyz Republic (see **Attachment 5**).

Unfortunately, the Republic of Uzbekistan has not signed the proposed Memorandum yet. The National Commission for UNESCO of Uzbekistan and the local nature protecting bodies explained the delay by considerable changes in the management system of local natural areas that had been taking place for almost two years by then. The Republic of Kazakhstan hopes that the proposed Memorandum will be signed in the near future.

4. c) In view of the situation with the signing of the tripartite Memorandum the consultations with IUCN were postponed until the Memorandum will be signed by all three concerned State-Parties.

4. d) The Republic of Kazakhstan has implemented a number of measures to meet the recommendations and commentaries of the evaluation mission of the UNESCO experts.

The borders of the most problematic components situated on the territory of the National Park of Sayram-Ugam were reconsidered. The areas of Limited Economic Use are proposed for inclusion into the buffer zone of the property. Some other technical mistakes of the borders of the property were also fixed. In June 2016 the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan prepared by maps of the property having taking into the account the reconsidered borders of the property, additional zoning and corrections of the size of the territory of the National Park of Sayram-Ugam (see **Attachment 6** and **Attachment 7**).

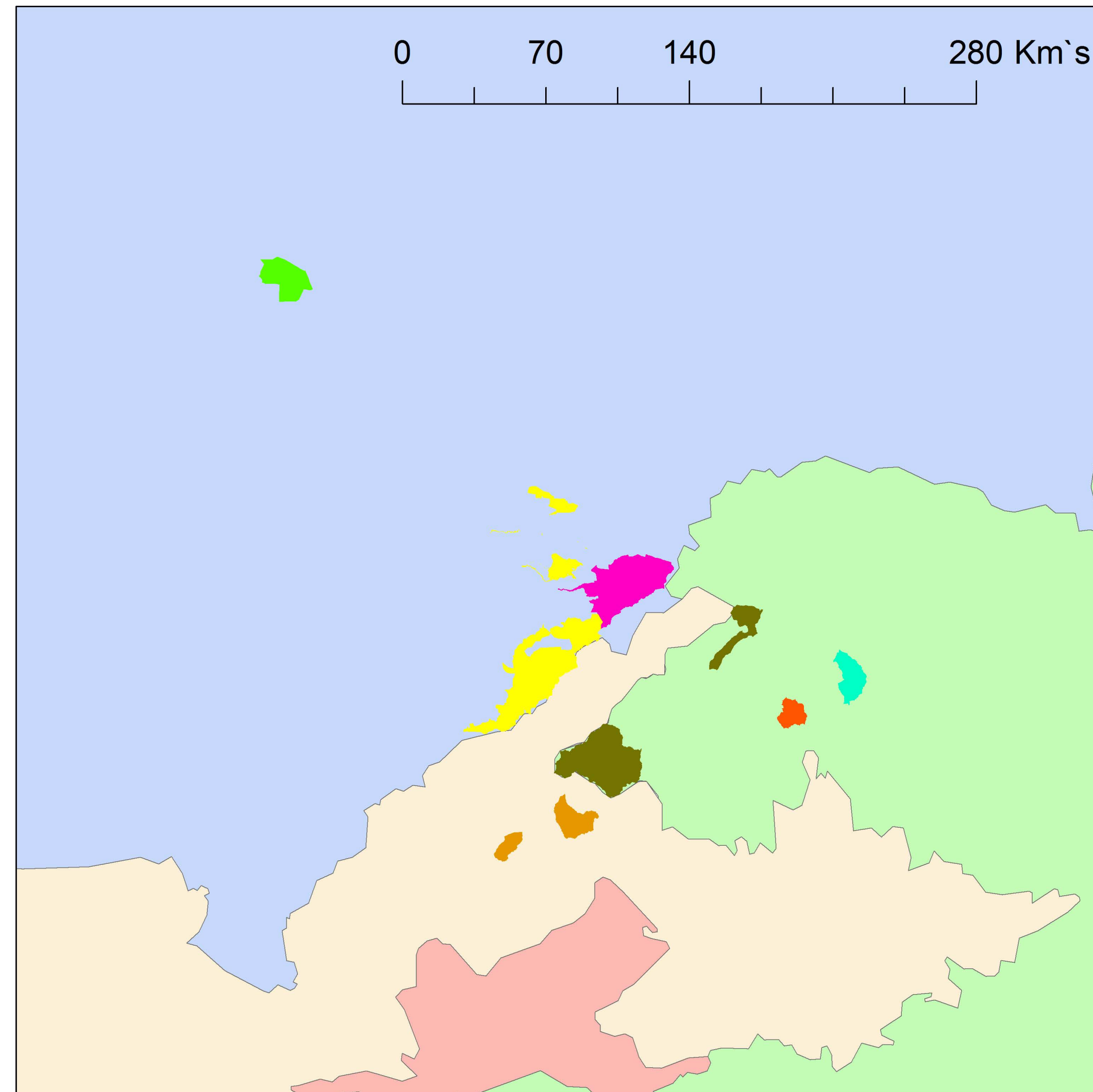
Zoning of the National Park of Sayram-Ugam can be observed on the attached maps and looks in the following way:

No	Functional Zone	Square in hectares	Protection Regime
1.	Reserve Zone	55 589,4	Reserved, corresponding to the regime of Reserve
2.	Zone of Ecological Stabilization	13 124,6	Reserved with certain allowances
3.	Tourism and Recreation Zone	19 711,0	Wildlife sanctuary
4.	Zone of Limited Economic Use	60 628,0	Wildlife sanctuary
In total		149 053,0	
5.	Buffer zone	27 000	Regulated

After exclusion of the areas of Limited Economic Use from the territory of the property and their inclusion into the Buffer zone, the territory of the National Park of Sayram-Ugam encloses the area of 88,425 hectares and the territory of its buffer zone – 87,628 hectares.

5. In view of the situation with the signing of the tripartite Memorandum the consideration of the potential of the property to meet criterion (ix) was postponed until the Memorandum will be signed by all three concerned State-Parties.

Administrative map of Central Asia and Kazakhstan with indication of the proposed territory

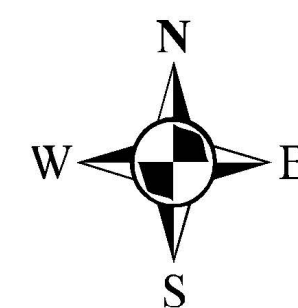


Legend

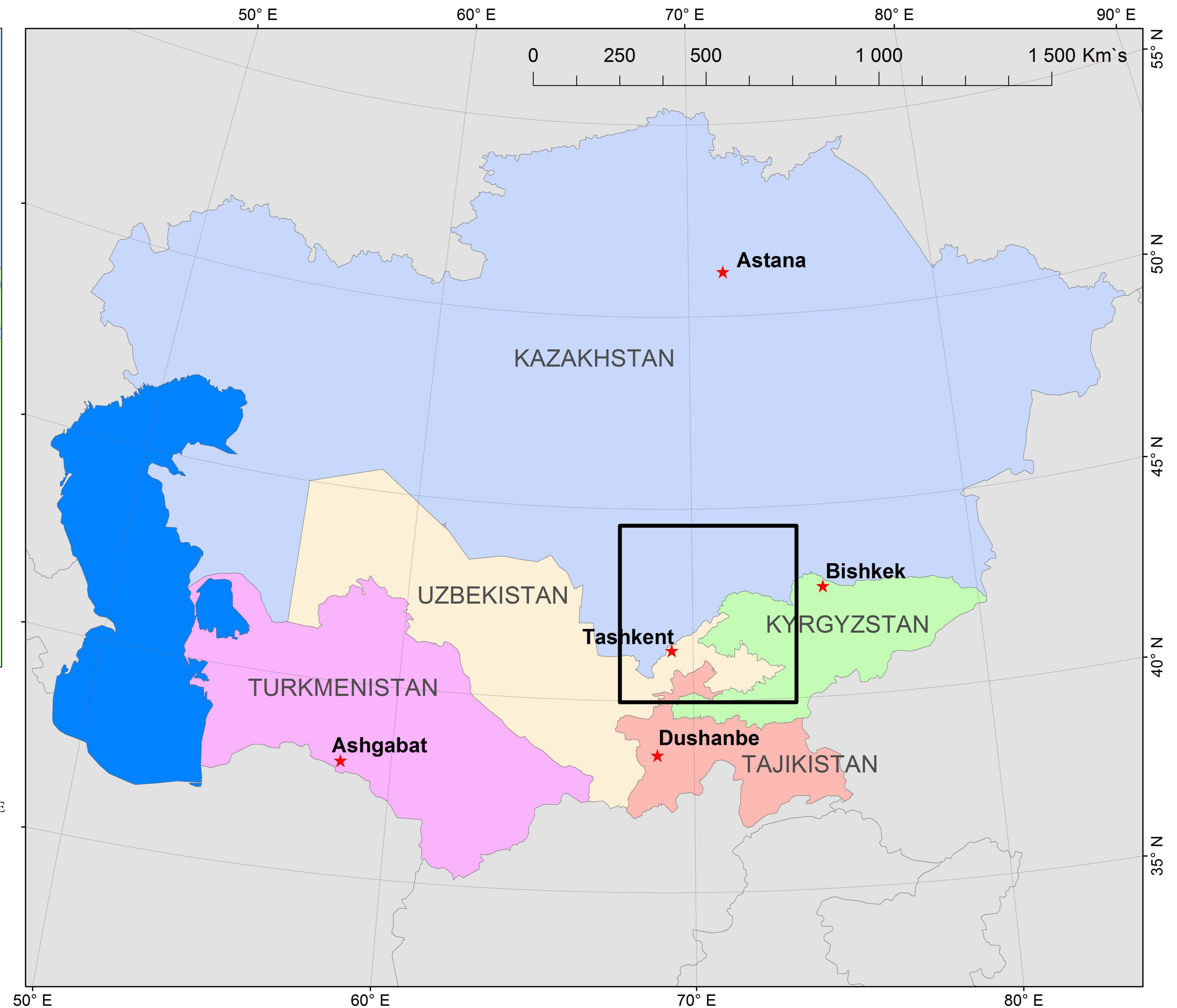
Proposed territory

- Aksu-Zhabagly
- Karatauskiy
- Sayram-Ugamskiy
- Chatkalskiy
- Sary-Chelek
- Padysha-Ata
- Besh-Aral

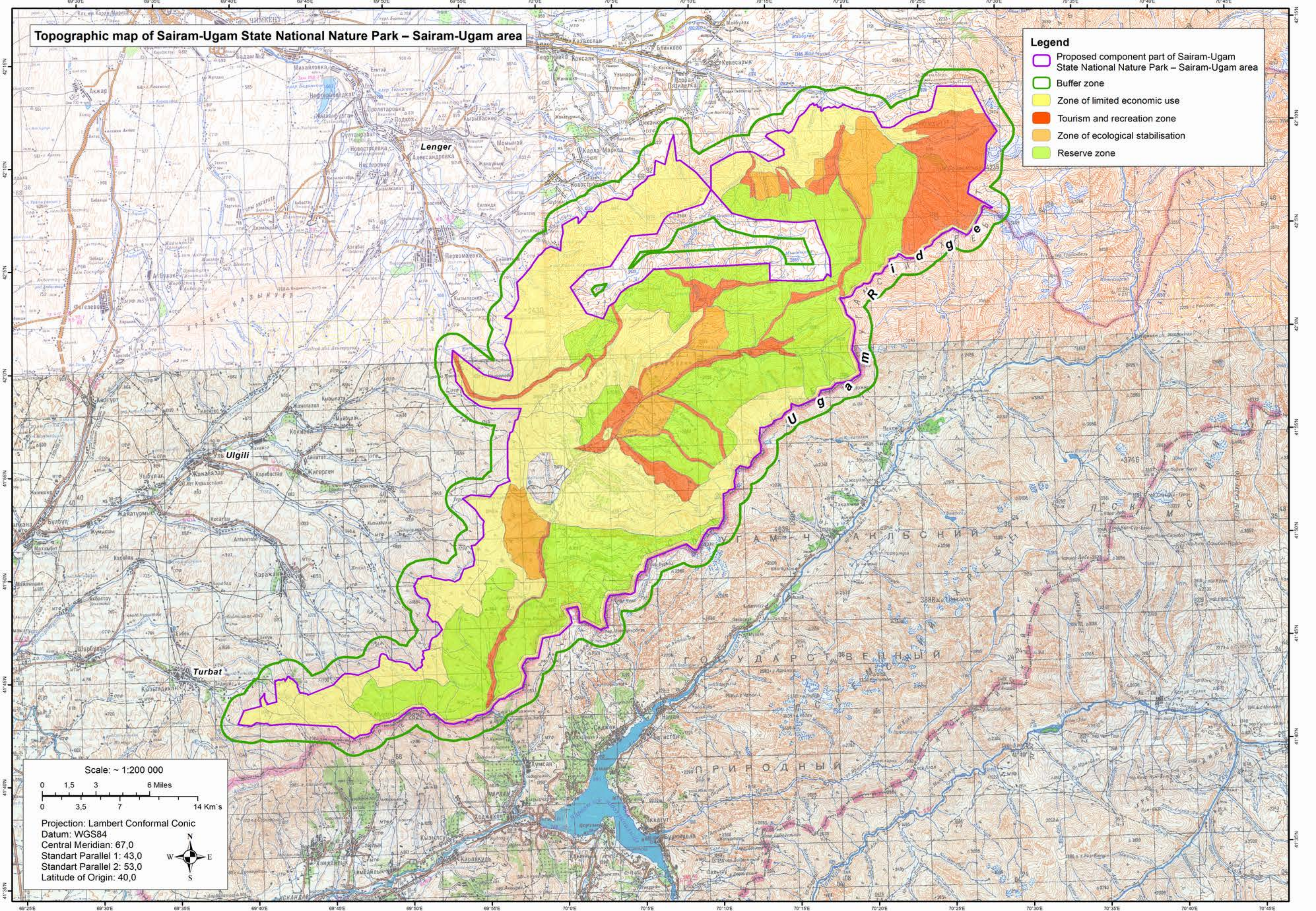
Projection: Lambert Comformal Conic
 Datum: WGS 1984
 Central Meridian: 67,0
 Standart Parallel 1: 43,0
 Standart Parallel 2: 53,0
 Latitude of Origin: 40,0



Association
 for the Conservation
 of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan



Topographic map of Sairam-Ugam State National Nature Park – Sairam-Ugam area



Topographic map of Sairam-Ugam State National Nature Park – Boradaitau and Irsu-Daubabin area

Legend

Proposed component part of Sairam-Ugam State National Nature Park – Sairam-Ugam area

Buffer zone

Scale: ~ 1:130 000

0124 Miles

0248 Km's

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Datum: WGS84
Standart Parallel 1: 43,0
Standart Parallel 2: 53,0
Latitude of Origin: 40,0

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