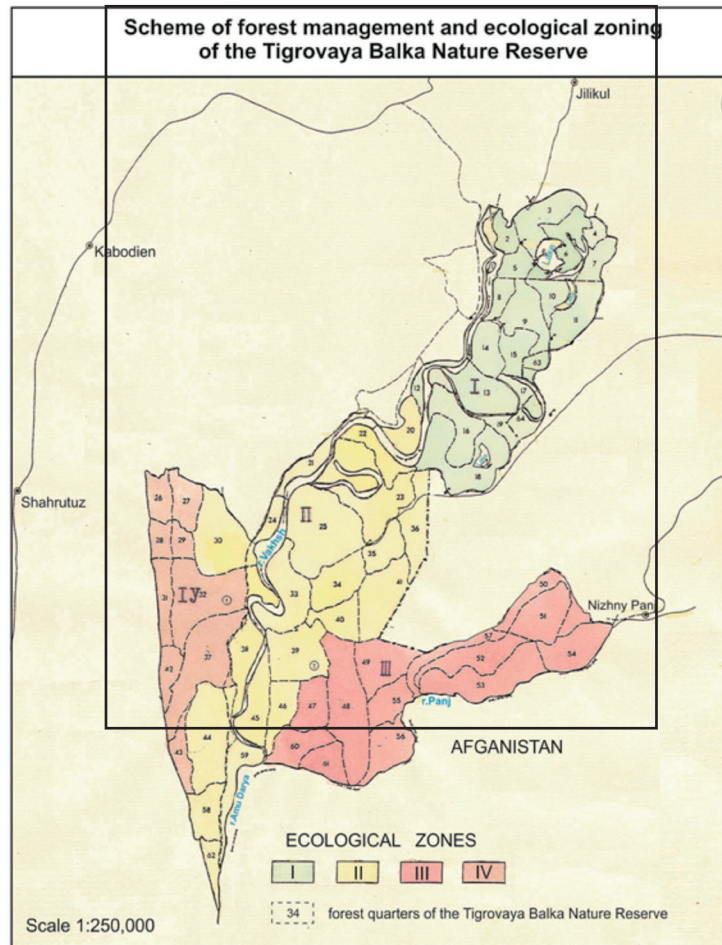


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Party	Republic of Tajikistan
State, Province or Region	The Khatlon Region, the Kabodien (right bank of Vakhsh) and Dusti (former Dzhilikulsky, left bank) districts
Name of Property	Tugay forests of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve
Geographical coordinates to the nearest second	The latitude and longitude coordinates of a point at the approximate centre of the nominated property: 37°12'17" north latitude, 68°20'29" east longitude.
Textual description of the boundary(ies) of the nominated property	The boundaries of the nominated property matches the boundaries of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve.



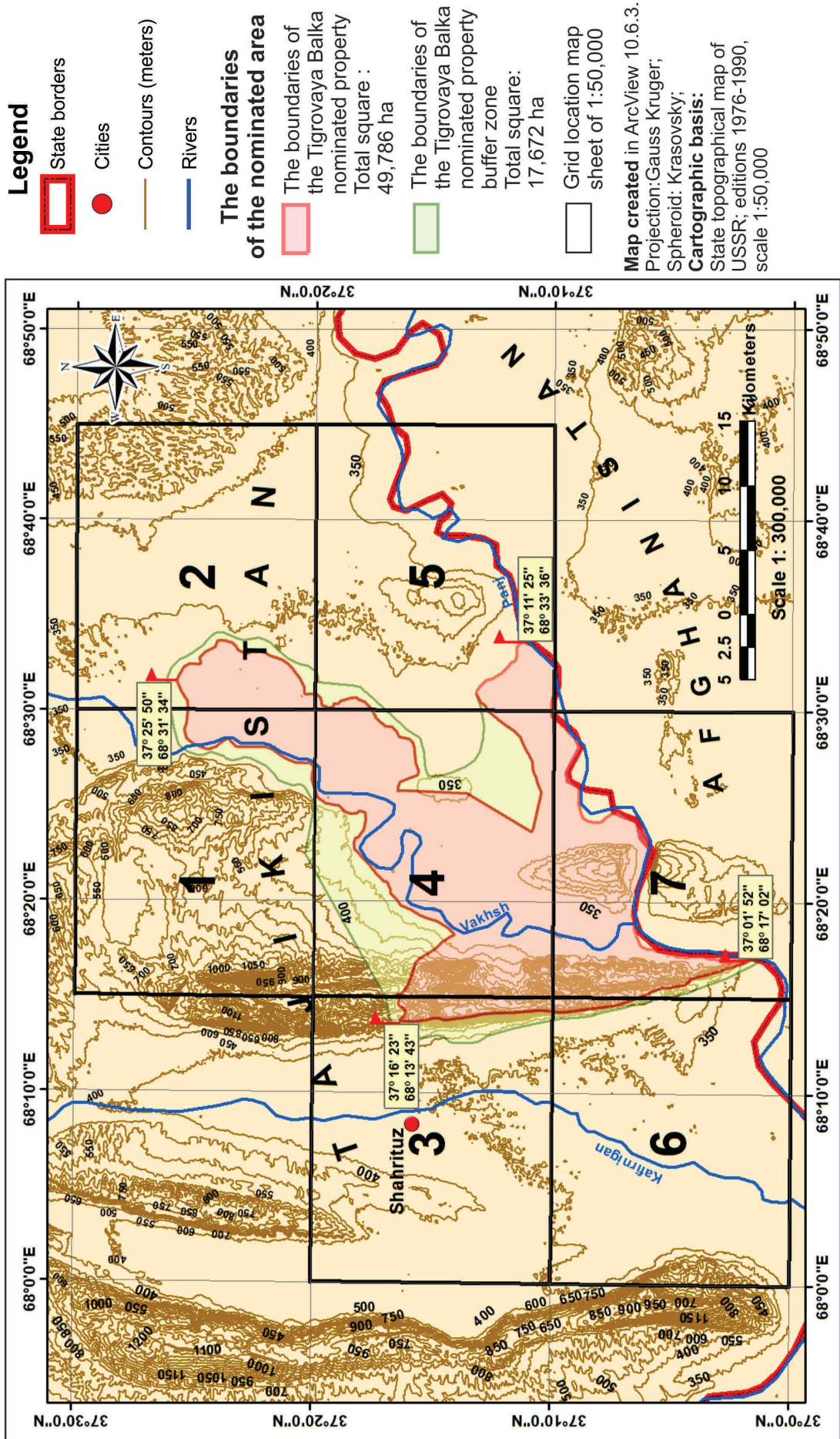
Scheme of forest management and ecological zoning of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve

In the north, the nature reserve borders on the farmlands. The border there runs through forest quarters No. 1, 2, 3. In the east, the border of the reserve mainly coincides with the administrative border of the Jaihun (the former Kumsangirsky) administrative district, and then, at the extreme eastern point of the reserve with coordinates 68°33'36" east longitude, 37°11'25" north latitude, it meets the state border of the Republic of Afghanistan. Further, the border runs south-west, coinciding with the state border with the Republic of Afghanistan along the Panj and Amu Darya rivers, to the extreme southern point of the reserve with coordinates 68°17'02" east longitude, 37°01'52" north latitude. Further, the border of the reserve turns sharply to the north and goes along the border of quarters No. 62, 58, 43, 37, 42, 31, 28, 26 to the extreme western point with coordinates 68°13'43" east longitude, 37°16'23" north latitude. Then, the border generally runs south-east to the Vakhsh river valley along the border of quarters No. 27 and 30. Further, in the general northwest direction, the border runs along the right side of the Vakhsh valley along the border of quarters No. 24, 21, 20, 12, and goes to the starting point of the description, i.e. to the beginning of the northern boundary of quarter No. 1.

A4 or A3 size map(s) of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone (if present)

Topographic map with epy accurate boundaries of the nominated property and its buffer zone. Scale 1:50 000. A map on 7 sheets of A1 format is attached to the nomination dossier.

Topographic map of the Tigrovaya Balka nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone



Criteria under which property is nominated (itemize criteria)

(ix), (x)

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

a) Brief synthesis

The nominated territory is located in the interfluvial area of the Vakhsh, Panj and Kafirnigan rivers, at the border of Afghanistan, where the largest river in Central Asia – the Amu Darya – takes its origin. The territory covers a vast area of tugay ecosystems, along the banks of the Vakhsh River, the territory of the hilly sandy Kashka-Kum desert, the Buritau eminence, as well as the low mountains of the southern spurs of the Aruktau range – the Hodja-Kaziyon mountains. The area of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve is 49,786 hectares and the area of its buffer zone is 17,672 hectares.

The reserve is a unique desert-tugay reservation of dry Central Asian type subtropics, where a natural Asiatic poplar tugay vegetation complex is preserved. The complex is composed of water-resistant and thermophilic summer-green salt-tolerant trees and shrubs, such as the Asiatic poplar or blue poplar, the dzhida or oleaster, the multiramose tamarix, and rare and endangered animals inhabiting it, such as the Bactrian deer, whose population in the reserve exceeds 300 heads, the goitered gazelle, the striped hyena, the gray monitor, the Tajik black-and-gold pheasant, and many waterfowl birds. Tugay forests occupy an area of 24.1 thousand hectares in the reserve and this is the only place in the world where the Asiatic poplar tugay ecosystem has been preserved in its original state on a vast territory.

b) Justification for Criteria

Criterion (ix):

The natural complex of Tigrovaya Balka is an outstanding example of continuous ecological and biological processes taking place in the evolution and development of desert-tugay biocenoses and their characteristic plant and animal communities. The reserve has an amazing variety of landscapes with coexisting jungles, sandy and saline semi-deserts, piedmont semi-savannas, and various wetlands, dynamically adapting to changes in the hydrological regime of the territory.

Criterion (x):

The Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve is the last large reserve on the planet that preserves the natural communities of Asiatic poplar tugay flora and fauna that have not been significantly suffered from anthropogenic impact. The reserve serves as a genetic reservation for rare and endangered plant and animal species inhabiting its territory, making a significant contribution to the preservation of the region's biodiversity.

In the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve, the largest in Central Asia forest area of the Asiatic poplar or the blue poplar (*Populus pruinosa* Schrenk) is preserved, which in the community with the dzhida or the oleaster (*Elaeagnus angustifolia* L), the multiramose tamarix (*Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb.), and others, occupies the floodplain and above-floodplain river terraces of the reserve.

In addition to the relict ecosystems, the unique objects preserved in the reserve include animals from the Red List of the IUCN, such as the Bactrian deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*), the goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*), the Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus ciscaucasica*), and the striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*).

c) Statement of Integrity

The Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve is an integral natural complex, the main components of which are inseparably associated with each other by the common origin, historical fate, and dynamics of natural development, and includes the elements necessary to confirm its Outstanding Universal Value. The reserve presents ecosystems of tugai floodplain forests, sandy and saline semi-deserts, foothill low-grass semi-savannas and wetlands, with the entire spectrum of flora and fauna representatives characteristic of them.

By its size (49,786 hectares) the nominated property is sufficient to support the sustainable functioning of tugay ecosystems and fully represent characteristics and processes that reflect their significance. The buffer zone of the reserve (17,672 hectares) provides additional guarantees of the integrity of the nominated property.

Biophysical processes and properties of the natural landscape of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve are indirectly affected by economic activities (irrigated agriculture and cattle grazing) conducted in adjacent territories, but so far they have not been significantly disturbed.

In recent years, both plant communities of the nominated property and the inhabitants, primarily the IUCN Red List species – the Bactrian deer, the goitered gazelle, and the striped hyena – have demonstrated recovery dynamics.

e) Requirements for protection and management

The nominated territory has had the status of a state nature reserve since 1938, the highest nature protection status of the Republic of Tajikistan, corresponding to IUCN category Ia.

The Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve is a structural subdivision of the State Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and operates in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Specially Protected Natural Territories” of 27.11.2014.

The protection of the territory and the observance of the protected regime is carried out by a special inspection service, consisting of 30 rangers and 5 senior rangers. The protection of the territory is carried out by the methods of daily rounds of the forest guard (by the forces of rangers) and night raid patrols.

Operational protection and preservation of attributes that express the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tigrovaya Balka property is carried out on the spot by the management of the reserve on the basis of medium-term management plans. Thus, the “Management Plan of the state reserve Tigrovaya Balka and the adjacent territory for the period 2022-2026” defines specific measures for protection, scientific research, monitoring of the state of conservation, environmental education and interaction with the local population, the timing of their implementation, performers, sources of funding and expected results.

The nature protection institution Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve has the necessary material and human resources to ensure the preservation and further natural development of a unique complex of ecosystems.

The existing economic burden on the ecosystems of the reserve is associated with the development of agriculture and animal husbandry in the adjacent territories. Compliance with the reserve regime, infrastructure, and staffing make it possible to self-renew the ecosystems of the reserve and restore the number of background species of plants and animals.

There is no doubt that the inscription of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve on the World Heritage List will significantly increase attention to the territory, contribute to its successful protection and conservation.

**Name and contact
information of official
local institution / agency**

Organization: The Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
Address: 5/1 Shamsi str., Dushanbe city, Tajikistan
Tel: (99237) 236-40-59
Fax: (99237) 236-13-53
E-mail: info@tajnature.tj
Web address: www.tajnature.tj