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по изучению животных Красной книги Российской Федерации
и других особо важных животных фауны России

A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution RAS
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Permanent Expedition of RAS for study of Russian Red Data Book animals
and other key animals of Russian fauna

**МАТЕРИАЛЫ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЙ РАБОЧЕЙ ВСТРЕЧИ
ПО РЕАБИЛИТАЦИИ И РЕИНТРОДУКЦИИ
КРУПНЫХ ХИЩНЫХ МЛЕКОПИТАЮЩИХ**

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THE PERSIAN LEOPARD EEP AND THE COLLABORATION WITH THE SOCHI LEOPARD REHABILITATION AND BREEDING CENTRE

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The European Endangered Species Programme (EEP) is the most elaborated population management for species kept in European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) zoos. Each EEP has a coordinator with a special interest in and knowledge of the species concerned, assisted by a Species Committee. The coordinator is compiling information on the status of all the animals in the respective EEP, produces a studbook, carries out demographic and genetic analyses allowing producing a plan for the future management of the species. Together with the Species Committee, recommendations are made each year about which animals should be allowed to breed, which individuals should go from one zoo to another, and the conditions of such a move (breeding loan, exchange, term free disposition, etc.).

At present the Persian Leopard – *Panthera pardus saxicolor* EEP has 85 (42.43) animals in 41 institutions. Additional 23.12 leopards in 18 institutions are registered in the studbook, but are not part of the EEP, which make a total of 65.55 leopards in 59 institutions (ISB population). The EEP population needs to duplicate its size, but currently there is not enough space assigned. The three main goals for the Persian Leopard EEP are:

- To increase the captive population to 200 leopards to provide subadult leopards for training and release. The EEP is looking for new holders and 6 new institutions joined the programme last year;
- To increase the genetic composition of the population by introducing new founders. A new founder was transferred from Sochi Breeding Centre to the EEP this year and the programme gained two additional founders by including Teheran Zoo as a participant;
- To improve the “quality” of individual leopards through improved management and holding facilities in the participating zoos. The EEP and the Caucasian Leopard Reintroduction Advisory Group (CLRAG) have produced guidelines to improve the Persian leopard husbandry in the participant zoos.

A Persian leopard pair experienced in breeding was sent from the EEP Participant, Lisbon Zoo to Sochi Breeding Centre (SBC) in 2012, under an EAZA breeding loan. 5 leopards were born from this EEP female. In 2015 males were exchanged between SBC and the EEP participant, Nesles Zoo. EEP participant, Berlin Zoo, will send a new breeding female to SBC at the beginning of 2016. Other leopards will be transferred from the EEP to SBC for breeding and training/release in the coming years.