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Териологическое общество при РАН
Постоянно действующая экспедиция РАН
по изучению животных Красной книги Российской Федерации
и других особо важных животных фауны России

A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution RAS
Russian Theriological Society RAS
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**

25–27 НОЯБРЯ 2015 Г., МОСКВА, РОССИЯ

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
ON REHABILITATION AND REINTRODUCTION
OF LARGE CARNIVORES**

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MANAGED EX-SITU POPULATIONS OF FELIDS IN THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA (EAZA) FOR POSSIBLE REINTRODUCTION

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The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) was founded in 1992 and its mission is to facilitate cooperation within the European zoo and aquarium community towards the goals of education, research and conservation. An integral part of conservation is the establishment of self-sustaining populations through breeding management. Within EAZA specialized Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs), like the Felid TAG, supervise the breeding programs at different levels within their taxonomic unit, establish regional collection plans (RCPs), run mid-year meetings and sessions at annual EAZA conferences and liaise with conservation bodies (GOs and NGOs). One of the highest goals to achieve would be to provide large felids, i.e. *Panthera* sp. for sustainable and scientifically based reintroduction programs. One of these is for reintroduction of the Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*) into the northern Caucasus mountains, as part of a greater strategy in collaboration with the IUCN Cat Specialist Group and Russian partners. Due to the inherent differences between its 377 member institutions, in 43 countries throughout Europe and the Middle East, speaking with many different languages, general working ethics have to be agreed and adhered to. Strong differences between the member institutions in their funding capacity, economic systems as well as climate and space availability create variations in the holding conditions for felids. These have to be standardized and improved in order to provide suitable and capable individuals for reintroduction in collaboration with the European Endangered Species Program (EEP) for the Persian Leopard. Also a tight cooperation between the *in situ* and *ex situ* institutions is of importance as well with the national and local institutions that finally need to implement a reintroduction program. For the current Sochi project the Caucasus Leopard Reintroduction Advisory Group (CLRAG) has been formed to advise the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Russian Federation (MNRE) and other Russian partner institutions.