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pendence, none before.

Berry said that horns were growing again on the Damaraland rhinos, numbering 110, most of which had been dehorned to remove the incentive to poachers. Dehorning had

been successful, with only a few hornless rhinos killed, apparently out of spite. A behavioural study of dehorned rhinos had been commissioned.

Leopard in the Southwest USSR

by Anatoley P. Bragin*

The Anatolian leopard *Panthera pardus ciscaucasia* (*saxicolor*) is now seriously threatened with extinction within the USSR. According to recent estimates, the number of leopards on the northern macroslope of the Greater Caucasus hardly exceeds 10 individuals (Gineyev and Abdurakhmanov, 1988). They are scattered over the vast space of the Krasnodar and were encountered in 1985 by a forester in Chegem Canyon (Aiyunts and Shalybkov, 1990). Leopards are also likely to be present in the highlands of the Tooshetsky Reserve (125 km²) in the Eastern Caucasus of the Georgian SSR (Chykovany et al, 1990). In the adjacent Daghestan ASR, an adult male was killed in November, 1981 (Spasskaya and Saidaliyeva, 1982).

In Azerbaijan, the leopard is extremely rare. Solitary individuals are found in the southeastern part of this republic (Talysh), and in the Nakhichevan ASSR from which they enter the Karabakh Upland Region (Aleperov et al, 1977). In Armenia 73 leopards were killed from 1952 to 1971, of which 54 were killed during 1967-1971, and 16 in 1971. Since 1972, killing has been forbidden. The range of the leopard in Armenia has increased greatly, but there is only one nature reserve within this range where habitats are fully protected. This reserve, the Khosrovsky (Garni) Reserve (292 km²) has perhaps five leopards as permanent residents (Airumyan and Gasparyan, 1977).

In Central Asia the leopard appears to be extinct in the mountains of southwest Tajikistan (Sokov, 1977). In the southwest Kopet Dag, Turkmen SSR, leopards are found over the entire region from lower mountains (400-600 m) in the west to higher ones (1,600-1,800 m) in the east. According to Lukarevsky (1987), 25-30 leopards were living in the 3,000 km² Sumbar River basin in 1984-1986, of which seven were adult females and four adult males. In the fully protected Syunt-Hasardagh Reserve (297 km²), however, their numbers rarely exceed 10 animals, including transients, because natural recruitment is lost to direct persecution by local people living near the Reserve (Danov, 1987).

In the Central Kopet-Dagh, leopards are fully protected in the Kopet Dag Reserve (500 km²). Although their numbers are not known, sightings are increasingly common, due to the recovery of ungulate populations, a decrease in poaching, and the presence of two wildlife sanctuaries, the Meana-Chaachinsky (600 km²) and Kalininsky (150 km²) Sanctuaries, adjacent to the Reserve (German and Tyrlshkin, 1990). The presence of leopards in unprotected areas of the Central Kopet Dag has recently been confirmed by the discovery of the body of a young leopard at the bottom of the Golubinoye Gorge on 5 May 1987. It apparently died after falling down a precipice (Vishnyatshky, 1988).

The future of leopard populations in the Badhyz Reserve

(876 km²) is also of serious concern because of a gradual decrease in its size. There are currently less than 10 individuals reported living in the Reserve (Sokov et al, 1990).

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