

## Caucasus leopard conservation questionnaire 2014

Short summary of information compiled for the Caucasus Leopard Workshop  
Tbilisi, Georgia, 9–10 October 2014



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# Caucasus leopard questionnaire 2014

|          |                                       |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Country: | Armenia                               |
| Authors: | Karen Manvelyan, Alexandre Malkhasyan |

## 1. Status and monitoring of leopard and prey

### 1.1. Leopard presence since 2007/2011<sup>1</sup>

1.1.1. List all leopard observations in your country since 2007/2011 (e.g. mortalities, photos, genetic proofs, direct observations, skins, etc.);:

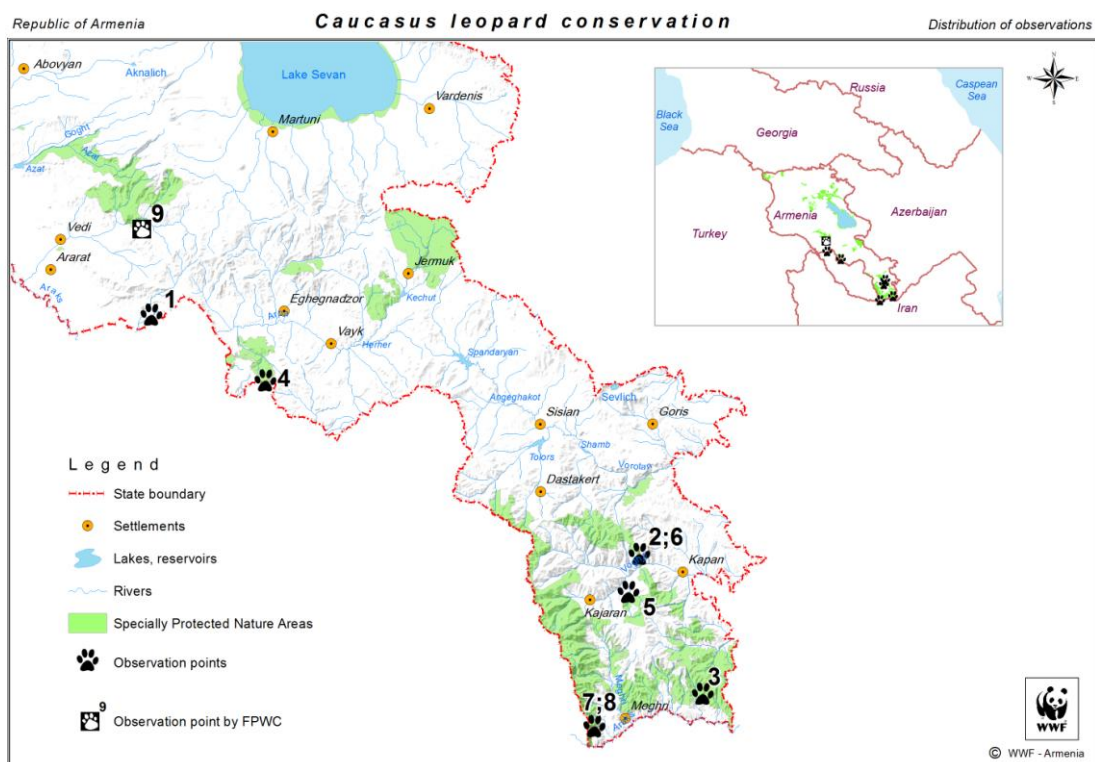
| Nr | Date       | Place (name and coordinates as long/lat)  | Observation   | Category <sup>2</sup><br>1 – 3 | Remarks   |
|----|------------|---|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. | 29.03.2011 | Ararat province,<br>Aratsani river Gorge<br>N39° 45' 210''<br>E044° 58' 17.6''<br>1555m               | footprints  | 3                              | According to the survey data, local population saw leopard and its footprints in the territory. |
| 2. | 20.04.2011 | Syunik province,<br>Barbushat ridge<br>N39° 14' 45.1''<br>E046° 17' 28.4''<br>2353m                   | footprints  | 3                              | According to the survey data, local population saw leopard and its footprints in the territory. |
| 3. | 22.03.2012 | Syunik province,<br>Arevik National Park,<br>village Nrnadzor<br>N38. 94937°<br>E046. 45712°<br>1038m | Old excrements<br>with Bezoar goat<br>hair were found on<br>the pathways.   | 1                              | Found remains of male Bezoar goat presumably killed by leopard, 5-6 year old.                   |
| 4. | 01.10.2012 | Vayots Dzor province<br>Ayots Dzor ridge<br>N39. 61765°<br>E045. 28133°<br>2723m                      | footprints  | 3                              | Local population was observing a leopard and saw its traces.                                    |
| 5. | 05.12.2012 | Syunik province<br>Dzagedzor gorge<br>N39. 16647°<br>E046. 26068°<br>1722m                            | Male Bezoar goat,<br>presumably killed<br>by leopard 1 month<br>before was found<br>on November 30,<br>2012 in<br>neighbouring<br>canyon. | 1                              | Female wild Boar<br>presumably killed by leopard<br>was found in the territory.                 |
| 6. | 13.07.2013 | Syunik province,<br>Barbushat ridge   | After discovering<br>animals  | 1, 3                           | During a month 7 calves, 2<br>foals and 3 dogs were   |

<sup>1</sup> The questionnaire covers all information since the compilation of the status report produced as an input for the strategic planning workshop in Tbilisi 30 May – 1 June 2007 (Status and Conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus, Cat News Special Issue No. 2, 2007) and since the last questionnaire update in 2011. Please provide also information/data prior to 2011 if they were not yet provided in the 2011 questionnaire (see attached compilation).

<sup>2</sup> Categories: C1 = "hard facts" (photos, genetic samples, carcasses...); C2 = observations confirmed by trained person; C3 = unconfirmed observation or observation that cannot be confirmed.

|     |             |  |                                    |   |   |
|-----|-------------|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
|     |             | N39. 25937°<br>E046. 29342°<br>2588m   | presumably killed by leopard       |   | presumably killed by leopard.   |
| 7.  | 12.09.2013  | Syunik province,<br>Arevik National Park<br>N38. 88495°<br>E046. 16336°<br>1781m | 1 photo of leopard.                | 1 | 20 scat samples were sent to Senckenberg Wildlife Genetics Research Station Gelnhausen for DNA analysis. 7 proved for leopard |
| 8.  | 15.11.2013  | Syunik province,<br>Arevik National Park<br>N38. 88494°<br>E046. 16337°<br>1778m | 5 photo of leopard.                | 1 | Scats were found. Proved by DNA.  |
| 9.  | July 2013   | Ararat province, near Khosrov Reserve  | Video trapped materials (3 videos) | 1 | Data of FPWC. Scats were found. Proved by DNA.  |
| 10. | Spring 2014 | Syunik province,<br>Arevik National Park<br>N38. 88494°<br>E046. 16337°<br>1778m | 7 photos of leopard                | 1 | Excrements and scats were found. Proved by DNA.   |
| 11. | August 2014 | Syunik province,<br>Arevik National Park<br>N38. 88494°<br>E046. 16337°<br>1778m | 3 photos of leopard                | 1 | Excrements and scats were found. Pending for DNA analysis.  |

1.1.2. Produce a map of your country showing the distribution of the number (Nr) of the observations listed above.



**1.2. Leopard survey and monitoring (Objective 2)**

## 1.2.1. Was the leopard survey completed (Target 2.1)?

If YES: describe how, who, and list outcomes. What difficulties did you have during the surveys?

The surveys were done in regular manner by WWF project coordinator Alexandre Malkhasyan in partnership with rangers of south Armenia Protected Areas (Shikahogh reserve, Arevik NP, Zangezur and Khustup sanctuaries).

If NO: explain why not.

The leopard survey is ongoing.

## 1.2.2. Was a standardised monitoring system developed and established (Target 2.2)?

WWF Armenia has developed large mammals monitoring programme for all PAs of the country which was approved by the Ministry of Nature Protection. The programme is implemented in PAs through the WWF's support. It means that PAs staff on monitoring still needs more training to conduct monitoring without WWF assistance.

If YES: describe the methods used, and their pros and cons.

Camera traps, drones, footprints size, excrements

**1.3. Prey survey and monitoring (Objective 2)**

## 1.3.1. Was a monitoring system for prey established (Target 2.2)?

It is established through support of WWF in south Armenia PAs. the prey species including bezoar goat, Armenian mouflon, brown bear, roe deer

If YES: describe the methods used and their reliability.

Camera traps, drones, footprints size, scats

**1.4. Organisations involved in survey/monitoring**

## 1.4.1. Which authorities are responsible for the survey and monitoring of leopards and prey?

The Ministry of Nature Protection is in charge of monitoring of biodiversity through its departments and PAs.

## 1.4.2. Which GOs/NGOs/institutions are involved in surveys and monitoring of leopards and prey?

Besides WWF, FPWC NGO is implementing monitoring of leopard and its prey in their owned area which makes around 2000 ha. No other either Governmental or Non-Governmental organization is involved in it.

**1.5. Research on leopard and prey (Objective 2)**

## 1.5.1. List research activities on leopard and their prey species since 2011 (2007 if not reported before) or ongoing.

| <i>Research project</i>  | <i>Responsible institution and donors</i>           | <i>Objectives and methods</i>  |
|--|---|--|
| Conservation of leopard in south Caucasus  | WWF CauPO/WWF Germany                               | Monitoring of leopard and species of prey, camera traps, observations, excrements, |
| Status and distribution of Armenian mouflon in Armenia   | Paul Weinberg/People's Trust For Endangered Species | Status and distribution of Armenian mouflon in Armenia/field observations          |
| Ecology and morphology of wild goat ( <i>Capra aegagrus</i> ) populations and their implications for conservation of Armenia's mountain ecosystems | Paul Weinberg/Rufford Small Grants Foundation       | Status and distribution of bezoar goat in Armenia/ field observations              |

1.5.2. List of new publications (released in 2011 or later) or reports on leopards or leopard-conservation related issues from the Caucasus area of your country (please provide PDF copy).

**July 2013**, an article on the topic of “The Caucasian Leopard: Protect, Save or Hunt?” was developed by Galust Nanyan, an environmental journalist. The Armenian version of the article was published in two monthly magazines (Ararat and Defacto) and the English version was published in “Noyan Tapan” weekly newspaper. The article was also shared with the Armenian local media (around 100 mailing list). as well as WWF-Armenia’s website

<http://wwf.panda.org/?209128/The-Caucasian-Leopard-Protect-Save-or-Hunt>

<http://www.yerkir.am/en/news/53230.htm>

**December 2013**, an article about Caucasian Leopard in the region was published in WWF Conservation Newsletter on the topic of Leopard Reoccupies Caucasus.

[http://wwf.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/wwf\\_offices/armenia/news/?219993/WWF-Caucasus-Newsletter-Special-Issue-2014](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/news/?219993/WWF-Caucasus-Newsletter-Special-Issue-2014)

**December 2013**, 150 copies of 2014 Wall Calendar with the 36 leopard pictures painted by children was published in the framework of the partnership between WWF-Armenia and the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC). The paintings included in this calendar are colorful and creative evidence of children’s ability to understand the urgent need to protect the Caucasian Leopard in Armenia.

**January 2014**, an article in English and Armenian was posted on WWF-Armenia’s website on January 29, 2014. The topic of the article is “Conservation efforts show results: new evidence of Leopards in Southern Armenia – WWF continues...” The article was also shared with the Armenian local media (around 100 mailing list).

[http://wwf.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/wwf\\_offices/armenia/news/?214873/Conservation-efforts-show-results-new-evidence-of-Leopards-in-Southern-Armenia--WWF-continues](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/news/?214873/Conservation-efforts-show-results-new-evidence-of-Leopards-in-Southern-Armenia--WWF-continues)

**February 2014**, in the framework of the partnership with FPWC, Mr. Karen Manvelyan was a jury member of the 6th Pan-Armenian Painting Contest organized by FPWC on February 28. WWF-Armenia provided a prize for the best painting of “I am a Leopard” nomination. The event was broadcasted different Armenian TV channels as well as the event article was published on different media websites.

**April 2014**, an article in English and Armenian was posted on WWF-Armenia’s website on April 27, 2014. The topic of the article is “WWF experts proved the presence of one male and two females of the Caucasian leopard in Southern Armenia”. The article was also shared with the Armenian local media (around 100 mailing list).

[http://wwf.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/wwf\\_offices/armenia/news/?220313/WWF-experts-proved-the-presence-of-one-male-and-two-females-of-the-Caucasian-leopard-in-Southern-Armenia](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/news/?220313/WWF-experts-proved-the-presence-of-one-male-and-two-females-of-the-Caucasian-leopard-in-Southern-Armenia)

**August 2014**, a book dedicated to the conservation of Caucasian Leopard written by Mr. Arlen Shahverdyan, a freelance writer, was published (500 copies) with the support of WWF-Armenia. The presentation of book is planned to be held in October 2014.

**The leopard project with camera traps photos was presented during different events, exhibitions, press conferences, etc.**

## 2. Endorsement and implementation of the Strategy

### 2.1. Has the *Strategy* be formally endorsed?

If YES: list all agencies/ministries that have endorsed the *Strategy* in your country.

The Regional Strategy for Conservation of Leopard was endorsed by the Ministry of Nature Protection.

If NO: why?

### 2.2. Protected areas and corridors (Objective 4)

2.2.1. Was a regional PA Plan developed and established (Target 4.1)?

Yes

2.2.2. Were new PA(s) for leopard conservation established (Target 4.2)? (Year of endorsement)

Khustup sanctuary was established in area of 6947 ha and Zangezur sanctuary was extended from 17368 ha up to 25871 ha by the Government of Armenia in November 2013. Gnishik Protected Landscape was established in the area of 6010 ha by the Gnishik Protected Landscape was established in the area of 6010 ha by the 3 communities in 2012 as a community managed PA.

2.2.3. Was a new corridor for leopard migration established (Target 4.3)? (Year of endorsement)

The connectivity of Arevik National Park, Shikahogh Reserve and Zangezur Sanctuary is already secured by established Khustup Sanctuary. Gnishik Protected Landscape is an important stepping stone within the corridor in southern Armenia linking Khosrov reserve with PAs in the southern Armenia.

### 2.3. International cooperation in leopard conservation (Objective 9)

2.3.1. Is cross-border illegal wildlife trade an issue in your country? If yes: Were any measures taken to stop cross-border illegal trade (Target 9.1)?

No

2.3.2. Has your country signed an international memorandum/agreement with focus on leopard conservation (Target 9.2)? If YES: Which ministry, with which country/countries?

The Government of Armenia signed establishment of transboundary peace park with Iran. In Armenia it covers Arevik National Park (34401 ha) and in Iran Dizmar PA (around 21000 ha) and Qiyamaqi wildlife refuge (95700 ha).

2.3.3. Does your country participate in an (international) expert group on leopard conservation? If YES: What group, with which countries participating?

Only within WWF initiatives.

### 3. Development of National Action Plan NAP

#### 3.1. Has a NAP been developed<sup>3</sup> (based on the template in Appendix II in the *Strategy*)? If YES:

##### 3.1.1. When, where, how?

Yes, in 2008, in Yerevan (Armenia), using participatory approach.

##### 3.1.2. Which stakeholder groups were involved? (GOs, NGOs, local interest groups – list!)

Ministry of Nature Protection (MoNP), Scientific Centre of Zoology and Hydroecology, WWF, UNDP, Transboundary Joint Secretariat, NGOs, some key communities.

##### 3.1.3. Was the NAP endorsed by national/provincial authorities (by which)?

In 2009, by the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia

##### 3.1.4. Was the NAP published and propagated? (Please provide PDF!)

Yes. Available as PDF in WWF Armenia website.

##### 3.1.5. Is funding available/secured for the implementation of the NAP?

State budget is provided to protected areas and regional conservation inspections in southern Armenia for protection of biodiversity, including leopard and prey species. CNF and TJS provide funding to PAs including leopard PAs (Khosrov reserve, Shikahogh reserve, Arevik National Park, Zangezur sanctuary, Khustup sanctuary, Gnishik Protected Landscape). WWF provides funding for support of monitoring of leopard and anti-poaching activities.

##### 3.1.6. Was the NAP/parts of the NAP implemented? If **yes**: how and by whom? If **no**: Why not?

Yes, the NAP implemented by around 70% by the Government (MoNP), WWF and partner organizations (UNDP, CNF, TJS).

##### 3.1.7. Who is responsible for the supervision of the implementation of the NAP?

Ministry of Nature Protection

##### 3.1.7. Was the NAP or an executive summary translated to English? (Provide Word file or PDF!)

Yes.

##### 3.1.8. If no NAP was developed: Why not?

N/A

<sup>3</sup> Provide any information that is new or has not been reported in the 2011 questionnaire.

#### 4. Additional questions

4.1. Are there any *P. p. saxicolor* in captivity in your country? N/A

| Nr. | Specimen<br>(sex, age) | Facility (e.g. Zoo) | Origin of the animals |
|-----|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.  |                        |                     |                       |
| 2.  |                        |                     |                       |
| 3.  |                        |                     |                       |

Add lines as needed.

4.2. Describe any leopard conservation activities in your country since 2011 that were not based on the *Strategy* or on the NAP: N/A

| Nr. | Activity (goal, action, actor, status) |
|-----|--|
| 1.  |  |
| 2.  |  |
| 3.  |  |

4.3. Do you think that the situation of leopard and its major prey has improved/worsened since the development of the *Strategy* in 2007 and our last update meeting in Istanbul in 2011?

Yes, situation with leopard improved, number of prey species like Bezoar goats and Armenian mouflon has increased by more than 20% since 2007.

4.4. What is the major benefit/shortcomings of the *Strategy* in regard to your country?

Still there is a need for improvement of protection inside and outside of the PAs, there is a need to create more wildlife corridors in the south of the country. The Regional Strategy and National Action Plan were considered while planning new PAs in southern Armenia (Arevik NP, Zangezur and Khustup sanctuaries).



# Caucasus leopard questionnaire 2014

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| Country: | Azerbaijan     |
| Authors: | Elshad Askerov |

## 1. Status and monitoring of leopard and prey

### 1.1. Leopard presence since 2007/2011<sup>1</sup>

1.1.1. List all leopard observations in your country since 2007/2011 (e.g. mortalities, photos, genetic proofs, direct observations, skins, etc.); add more lines as needed:

| Nr | Date      | Place (name and coordinates as long/lat) | Observation              | Category <sup>2</sup><br>1 – 3 | Remarks  |
|----|-----------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. | 2007      | Hyrkan NP                                | Photo                    | 1                              |  |
| 2. | 2012-2014 | Hyrkan NP                                | 41 photos and 8 videos   | 1                              | Photos belong to at least 2 individuals        |
| 3. | 2012-2014 | Zangezur NP                              | 170 photos and 20 videos | 1                              | 3 individuals identified: 1 male and 2 females |

1.1.2. Produce a **map of your country** showing the distribution of the number (Nr) of the observations listed above, provide map as JPG file.



### 1.2. Leopard survey and monitoring (Objective 2)

<sup>1</sup> The questionnaire covers all information since the compilation of the status report produced as an input for the strategic planning workshop in Tbilisi 30 May – 1 June 2007 (Status and Conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus, Cat News Special Issue No. 2, 2007) and since the last questionnaire update in 2011. Please provide also information/data prior to 2011 if they were not yet provided in the 2011 questionnaire (see attached compilation).

<sup>2</sup> Categories: C1 = "hard facts" (photos, genetic samples, carcasses...); C2 = observations confirmed by trained person; C3 = unconfirmed observation or observation that cannot be confirmed.

## 1.2.1. Was the leopard survey completed (Target 2.1)?

If YES: describe how, who, and list outcomes. What difficulties did you have during the surveys?

The leopard habitats in Azerbaijan was partly covered by surveys.

If NO: explain why not.

First of all because leopard habitats are located in bordering areas with armed conflicts. Lack of human and financial resources is another reason. Lack of cameras and payment for field staff makes impossible to extend monitoring sites

## 1.2.2. Was a standardised monitoring system developed and established (Target 2.2)?

It is developed but not fully established yet

If YES: describe the methods used, and their pros and cons.

About 40 camera traps are set in 3 sites (Nakhchyvan, Hyrkan and Akhar-Bakhar). Our field teams consist of 5 person (3 in Nakhchyvan, 2 in Talish and 1 in Akhar-Bakhar) who are visiting camera sites on monthly bases.

## 1.3. Prey survey and monitoring (Objective 2)

## 1.3.1. Was a monitoring system for prey established (Target 2.2)?

The same cameras are used for monitoring of prey also. But data needs to be processed.

If YES: describe the methods used and their reliability.

## 1.4. Organisations involved in survey/monitoring

## 1.4.1. Which authorities are responsible for the survey and monitoring of leopards and prey?

WWF, Ministry of ENR

## 1.4.2. Which GOs/NGOs/institutions are involved in surveys and monitoring of leopards and prey?

WWF, NP staff, The Institute of Bio-resources of Nakhchyvan Branch of NAS

## 1.5. Research on leopard and prey (Objective 2)

## 1.5.1. List research activities on leopard and their prey species since 2011 (2007 if not reported before) or ongoing.

| <i>Research project</i> | <i>Responsible institution and donors</i> | <i>Objectives and methods</i> |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                         |   |                               |

## 1.5.2. List of new publications (released in 2011 or later) or reports on leopards or leopard-conservation related issues from the Caucasus area of your country (please provide PDF copy).

- Avgan et all. 2012. First Hard Evidence of Leopard in Nakhchyvan. Cat News. 57:33

## 2. Endorsement and implementation of the Strategy

2.1. Has the *Strategy* be formally endorsed?

If YES: list all agencies/ministries that have endorsed the *Strategy* in your country.

Yes, it was endorsed by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

If NO: why?

**2.2. Protected areas and corridors (Objective 4)**

2.2.1. Was a regional PA Plan developed and established (Target 4.1)?

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

2.2.2. Were new PA(s) for leopard conservation established (Target 4.2)? (Year of endorsement)

| Yes,  |                   |      |         |                |             |           |
|---|-------------------|------|---------|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| Name  | National Category | IUCN | Country | Region         | Established | Area (ha) |
| Zangezur  | National Park     | II   | AZ      | Nakhchyvan     | 2009        | 42,797.4  |
| Arasboyu  | Sanctuary         | IV   | AZ      | Nakhchyvan     | 2005        | 9,118     |
| Arpachay  | Sanctuary         | IV   | AZ      | Nakhchyvan     | 2009        | 68,911    |
| Total for Nakhchyvan  |                   |      |         |                |             | 120,826.4 |
| Hirkan  | National Park     | II   | AZ      | Tallish Mount. | 2004        | 37,452**  |
| Hirkan  | Sanctuary         | IV   | AZ      | Tallish Mount. | 2005        | 2,552     |
| Rvarud  | Sanctuary         | IV   | AZ      | Tallish Mount. | 2009        | 510       |
| Total for Tallish Mountains   |                   |      |         |                |             | 40,514    |
| Total for AZ  |                   |      |         |                |             | 161,340.4 |
| Explanations: IUCN – corresponding IUCN protected areas' management categories; AZ – Azerbaijan;<br>**figure indicates extended area (total area of Hirkan National Park is 40,358 ha). |                   |      |         |                |             |           |
| Author: N. Zazanashvili   |                   |      |         |                |             |           |

2.2.3. Was a new corridor for leopard migration established (Target 4.3)? (Year of endorsement)

|         |
|---------|
| Not yet |
|---------|

**2.3. International cooperation in leopard conservation (Objective 9)**

2.3.1. Is cross-border illegal wildlife trade an issue in your country? If yes: Were any measures taken to stop cross-border illegal trade (Target 9.1)?

|    |
|----|
| No |
|----|

2.3.2. Has your country signed an international memorandum/agreement with focus on leopard conservation (Target 9.2)? If YES: Which ministry, with which country/countries?

|    |
|----|
| No |
|----|

2.3.3. Does your country participate in an (international) expert group on leopard conservation? If YES: What group, with which countries participating?

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

### 3. Development of National Action Plan NAP

**3.1. Has a NAP been developed<sup>3</sup> (based on the template in Appendix II in the *Strategy*)? If YES:**

3.1.1. When, where, how?

2009, in Baku by involving experts from the National Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. It was approved by the Decree 514/Ü of the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources H. Bagirov on 14.09.2009

3.1.2. Which stakeholder groups were involved? (GOs, NGOs, local interest groups – list!)

National Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, WWF

3.1.3. Was the NAP endorsed by national/provincial authorities (by which)?

It was approved by the Decree 514/Ü of the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources H. Bagirov on 14.09.2009

3.1.4. Was the NAP published and propagated? (Please provide PDF!)

Not published

3.1.5. Is funding available/secured for the implementation of the NAP?

The NAP was developed for 5 years' period which is already expired. Activities were partly supported by the Ministry and WWF

3.1.6. Was the NAP/parts of the NAP implemented? If **yes**: how and by whom? If **no**: Why not?

Yes, partly by the Ministry, WWF and IDEA

3.1.7. Who is responsible for the supervision of the implementation of the NAP?

the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

3.1.7. Was the NAP or an executive summary translated to English? (Provide Word file or PDF!)

Yes

3.1.8. If no NAP was developed: Why not?

### 4. Additional questions

4.1. Are there any *P. p. saxicolor* in captivity in your country?

| Nr. | Specimen (sex, age) | Facility (e.g. Zoo) | Origin of the animals |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.  |                     |                     |                       |
| 2.  |                     |                     |                       |
| 3.  |                     |                     |                       |

Add lines as needed.

4.2. Describe any leopard conservation activities in your country since 2011 that were not based on the *Strategy* or on the NAP:

| Nr. | Activity (goal, action, actor, status) |
|-----|--|
|     |  |

<sup>3</sup> Provide any information that is new or has not been reported in the 2011 questionnaire.

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Baku Cat Summit was held in May, 2014 by IDEA. It was the largest platform to bring most of famous actors of leopard (cat) conservation together. After this event the feasibility study for the recovery of the Leopard in Azerbaijan was done by ZSL. |
| 2. |   |
| 3. |   |

4.3. Do you think that the situation of leopard and its major prey has improved/worsened since the development of the Strategy in 2007 and our last update meeting in Istanbul in 2011?

The situation of leopard and its prey was significantly improved after mentioned events. It is proven by data from monitoring sites. At least 5 leopards have been photographed during the last 2 years in Nakhchivan and Hyrkan sites. More than 250 photos and videos have been taken. Thousands of photos of prey species have been obtained

4.4. What is the major benefit/shortcomings of the Strategy in regard to your country?

The Strategy has identified the priorities to focus in development of NAP. It also concentrated the attention of local decision makers on regional approach to the problem, since the recovery of leopard in Azerbaijan depends not only on Azerbaijan itself

# Caucasus Leopard questionnaire 2014

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Country: | Georgia   |
| Authors: | Bejan Lortkipanidze, Zurab Gurielidze, Giorgi Gorgadze. |

## 1. Status and monitoring of leopard and prey

### 1.1. Leopard presence since 2007/2011<sup>1</sup>

1.1.1. List all leopard observations in your country since 2007/2011 (e.g. mortalities, photos, genetic proofs, direct observations, skins, etc.); add more lines as needed:

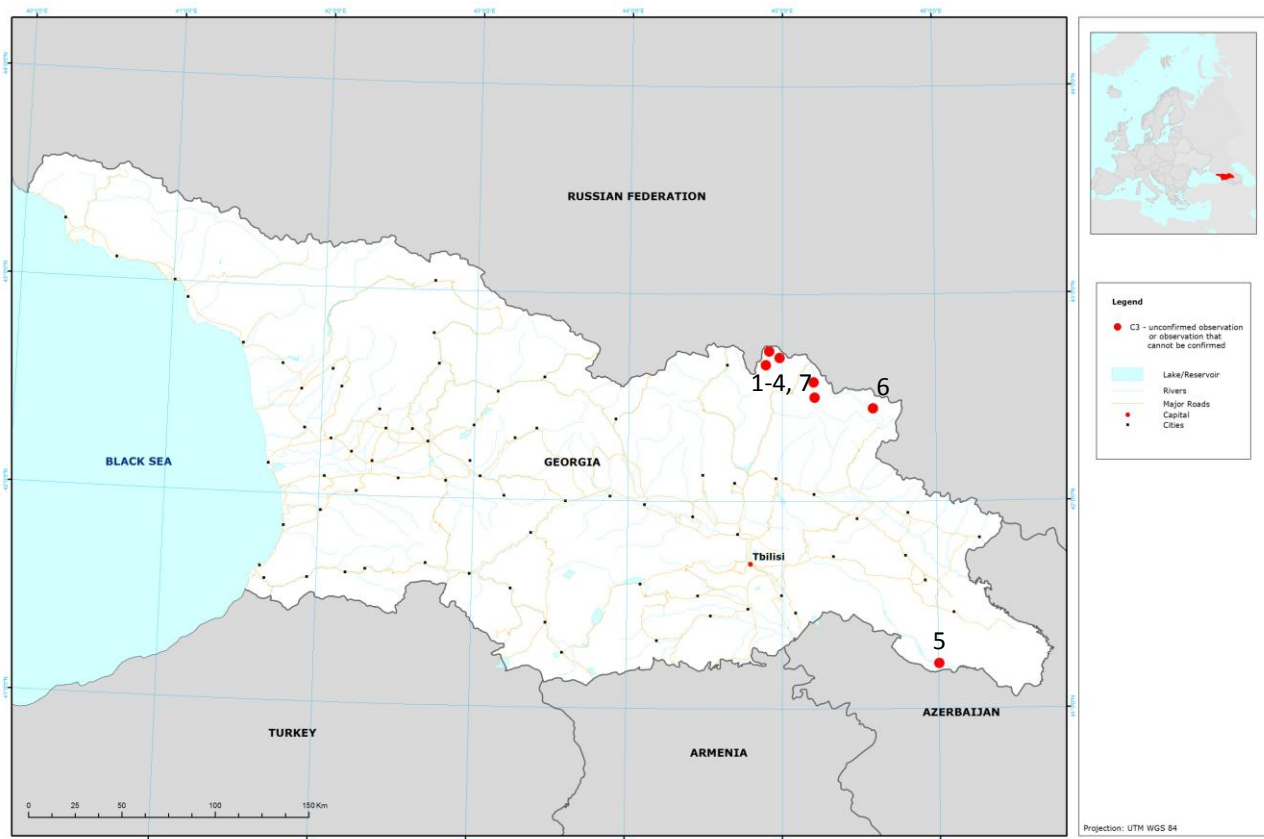
| Nr | Date      | Place (name and coordinates as long/lat)                  | Observation                  | Category <sup>2</sup><br>1 – 3 | Remarks  |
|----|-----------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. | 2002-2003 | Arkhoti, Khevsureti, central part of the Greater Caucasus | report on killed leopard     | C3                             | According to locals leopard was killed in the area. But, we could not obtain leopard skin, or any other part of the killed animal.<br><br>The observation is older than assessed period, but as it was obtained during last fieldworks we decided to include the data. |
| 2. | 2007-2008 | Arkhoti, Khevsureti, central part of the Greater Caucasus | Track and Direct observation | C3                             | Local saw leopard very close to Russian border. Description of the species was quite accurate.   |
| 3. | 2010      | Ardoti, Khevsureti, central part of the Greater Caucasus  | direct observation           | C3                             | Local saw leopard near village Ardoti. Description of the species was quite accurate. Cameras were set in the areas, but leopard presence was not confirmed.   |
| 4. | 2011      | Ukana Pshavi, central part of the Greater Caucasus        | direct observation           | C3                             | Shepherd saw leopard near village Muqo. Description of the species was quite accurate. Cameras were set in the areas, but leopard presence was not confirmed.  |
| 5. | 2012      | Chachuna, south east of Georgia                           | direct observation           | C3                             | Border policeman claimed that he saw a big cat moving toward Azerbaijan border.  |

<sup>1</sup> The questionnaire covers all information since the compilation of the status report produced as an input for the strategic planning workshop in Tbilisi 30 May – 1 June 2007 (Status and Conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus, Cat News Special Issue No. 2, 2007) and since the last questionnaire update in 2011. Please provide also information/data prior to 2011 if they were not yet provided in the 2011 questionnaire (see attached compilation).

<sup>2</sup> Categories: C1 = "hard facts" (photos, genetic samples, carcasses...); C2 = observations confirmed by trained person; C3 = unconfirmed observation or observation that cannot be confirmed.

|    |      |   |                    |    |   |
|----|------|---|--------------------|----|---|
|    |      |   |                    |    | Description of the species was quite accurate. In spring 2014 camera trapping could not confirm leopard presence.     |
| 6. | 2013 | Tusheti, Girevi   | Direct observation | C3 | Border policeman had seen the leopard near village Girevi, Tusheti.   |
| 7. | 2014 | Arkhoti, Khevsureti, central part of the Greater Caucasus | footprint          | C3 | Local had seen track on snow. He claimed that this was a leopard footprint, the same that our team showed him before. |

1.1.2. Produce a **map of your country** showing the distribution of the number (*Nr*) of the observations listed above, provide map as JPG file.



## 1.2. Leopard survey and monitoring (Objective 2)

### 1.2.1. Was the leopard survey completed (Target 2.1)?

If YES: describe how, who, and list outcomes. What difficulties did you have during the surveys?

According to National Action Plan for the Conservation of Leopard, the species presence was searched in the three high priority regions: Tusheti, Khevsureti and Iori Plateau. In 2011 and in 2014 leopard was actively searched by NACRES team on Iori Plateau (south east of Georgia). In 2010-2013 fieldworks were carried out in Tusheti and Khevsureti – central part of the Greater Caucasus. NACRES team used camera traps, interview local population and searching leopard signs to proof the species presence in the study areas. Cameras were mounted on the trails actively used by large mammals and in the areas where the species presumably was seen by locals. NACRES team interviewed local population and shepherds. Leopard footprints or any other sign of the species presence in the target areas were also searched.

NACRES team camera trapping activities could not obtain any leopard photo. Camera traps were collecting data during in total 7,135 camera/days and made 3009 animal photos. We compare the results with the camera trap activity from Vashlovani national park and found that during 5 year period 2004-2008 we made 22 leopard photos from 3700 camera/days. Hence we had 1 leopard picture per about 170 camera /days. Based on interviewing of local population we have 7 unconfirmed observations on leopard in Georgia.

Other areas such as Lagodekhi Nature Reserve, Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, Svaneti, Arsiani ridge, Kazbbegi had list priority, but were also identified by Leopard action plan as a moderate priority. These areas were searched by different organizations and projects.

Since 2010 all major protected areas have actively used camera traps for monitoring large mammal species. They try to place camera traps on actively used trails to obtain large mammal pictures within the protected areas. As a result they shot many pictures of lynx, bears, wolves and almost all ungulates in Lagodekhi and Borjom-Khareagauli national park. Tusheti protected area administration independently shot red deer pictures, which was thought does not live there anymore. Unfortunately Agency of Protected Areas could not spot leopard on their cameras.

Ilia state university also carried out camera trapping activities in various regions (such as Adjara mountains and Ateni gorge, Lesser Caucasus) of Georgia. But despite their attempts they could not spot leopard in the country.

If NO: explain why not.

### 1.2.2. Was a standardised monitoring system developed and established (Target 2.2)?

NO

If YES: describe the methods used, and their pros and cons.

## 1.3. Prey survey and monitoring (Objective 2)

### 1.3.1. Was a monitoring system for prey established (Target 2.2)?

Partially, YES

If YES: describe the methods used and their reliability.

In 2012-2013 Biodiversity Protection Service (BPS) at the Ministry of Environment Protection and Nature Recourses initiated country wide monitoring for large mammals including two species of turs, wild goat, red deer, chamois and roe deer. Ilia State University carried out the monitoring of these species. Arial surveys (by helicopter) were used for mountain ungulates census on the Greater Caucasus, counting red deer population on rut season (counting roaring males) and pellet group count for both red deer and roe deer populations.

NACRES used direct observation method from standardised observation points to count wild goat in



Tusheti during the years 2010-2011 and Khvestureti in years 2012-2013.

In 2014, Biodiversity Protection Service (BPS) had attempts to unify the country wide monitoring system. After several meetings, list of species, involved organizations and monitoring schedule was agreed. Although, there is no written monitoring plan - with clear vision, aims and goals, methodology, census methods and budget.

CNF with NACRES with close cooperation APA are trying to establish standardized monitoring system within protected areas of Georgia. The current project - "Participatory Biodiversity Monitoring in Borjom-Kharagauli National Park" aims to pilot several methods in the protected area with intensive involvement of rangers and local population in biodiversity sampling activities.

In 2013-14 FFI implemented a national assessment of wildlife trade in Georgia. As part of this, hunter surveys in some of the countries priority areas (Lagodekhi, Tusheti, Khevsureti and Kazbegi) were carried out with data on species hunted, historical and current abundances (perspective) and frequency of hunting collected. Hunting in Protected Areas seems common. Market surveys within Tbilisi also recorded a number of stalls regularly selling tur horns as well as bear and wolf skins. A stuffed leopard head was also witnessed on one occasion.

#### 1.4. Organisations involved in survey/monitoring

##### 1.4.1. Which authorities are responsible for the survey and monitoring of leopards and prey?

Biodiversity Protection Service and Agency of Protected Area at Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia

##### 1.4.2. Which GOs/NGOs/institutions are involved in surveys and monitoring of leopards and prey?

WWF Caucasus Programme Office;  
Caucasus Nature Fund;  
NACRES;  
Ilia state university;  
Tbilisi Zoo  
Agency of Protected Area;  
Biodiversity Protection Service  
Fauna & Flora International

#### 1.5. Research on leopard and prey (Objective 2)

##### 1.5.1. List research activities on leopard and their prey species since 2011 (2007 if not reported before) or ongoing.

| <i>Research project</i>  | <i>Responsible institution and donors</i>  | <i>Objectives and methods</i>   |
|--|--|---|
| Finding leopard and assessing pray base (Dagestan tur and wild goat) in Tusheti protected areas (2009-2011). | NACRES, with financial support of WWF Caucasus Programme Office and UNDP;                            | To find leopard in Tusheti by means of camera traps;<br><br>To assess wild goat population in Tusheti.            |
| Assess lynx population and finding leopard in Chachuna and Vashlovni protected areas. (2011)                 | NACRES, with financial support of WWF Caucasus Programme Office, Fauna & Flora International and EU; | To find leopard and assess lynx population in Vashlovani and Chacuna areas by means of intensive camera trapping; |
| Finding leopard and assessing pray base in Khevsureti (2012)   | NACRES, with financial support of WWF  | To find leopard in Khevsureti by means of camera traps;   |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | Caucasus Programme Office;  | To assess wild goat in Khevsureti and create a solid scientific baseline for planned Khevsureti protected areas;   |
| Finding leopard and assessing pray base in Khevsureti (2013)  | NACRES, with financial support of WWF Caucasus Programme Office;  | To find leopard in Khevsureti via camera traps;<br><br>To assess wild goat in Khevsureti and create a solid scientific baseline for planned Khevsureti protected areas;  |
| Assessing leopard conservation status in Georgia and assessing pray species populations in Khevsureti | NACRES, with financial support of The Muhamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund;  | To define current status of the Caucasian leopard in Georgia through determining its existence and range in areas prioritized in the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Leopard.<br><br>To assess critical pray base (Tur and wild goat) for leopard in Khevsureti and create a solid scientific baseline for planned Khevsureti protected areas;<br><br>To promote establishment of the Khevsureti protected areas by involving local people in conservation research and by training them in simple field methods. |
| Large ungulate species monitoring in Georgia (2012-2013)  | Ilisa state University, Tbilisi Zoo and Biodiversity Protection Service with financial support of Georgian government                         | Country wide populations census of the following species: Dagestan tur, Caucasian tur, chamois, wild goat, Red deer and roe deer   |
| Annual key species counts within the protected areas (ongoing)  | Agency of Protected Areas (APA) with financial support of Georgian government;<br><br>NACRES and APA; with financial support of CNF, GEF/SGP; | Key species monitoring. Among the species are leopard pray species such as Dagestan tur, Red deer, chamois and wild goat.  |
| Assessment of Wildlife Trade in Georgia with recommendations for interventions                        | Fauna & Flora International with financial support from the Acacia Foundation   | To assess the impact of legal and illegal wildlife trade within Georgia using expert consultations, interview surveys, market chain analysis and market monitoring   |

1.5.2. List of new publications (released in 2011 or later) or reports on leopards or leopard-conservation related issues from the Caucasus area of your country (please provide PDF copy).

Project Reports only in Georgian are available

## 2. Endorsement and implementation of the Strategy

### 2.1. Has the *Strategy* be formally endorsed?

If YES: list all agencies/ministries that have endorsed the *Strategy* in your country.

NO

If NO: why?

Georgian government avoid endorsing species conservation documents, because after accepting the documents all activities become obligatory to implement. As Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources not always can obtain funds for species conservation they avoid to take the responsibility. Although Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Recourses acknowledged the strategy as good working document.

### 2.2. Protected areas and corridors (Objective 4)

2.2.1. Was a regional PA Plan developed and established (Target 4.1)?

NO

2.2.2. Were new PA(s) for leopard conservation established (Target 4.2)? (Year of endorsement)

Khevsureti national park was established in year 2014

2.2.3. Was a new corridor for leopard migration established (Target 4.3)? (Year of endorsement)

NO

### 2.3. International cooperation in leopard conservation (Objective 9)

2.3.1. Is cross-border illegal wildlife trade an issue in your country? If yes: Were any measures taken to stop cross-border illegal trade (Target 9.1)?

NO

2.3.2. Has your country signed an international memorandum/agreement with focus on leopard conservation (Target 9.2)? If YES: Which ministry, with which country/countries?

NO

2.3.3. Does your country participate in an (international) expert group on leopard conservation? If YES: What group, with which countries participating?

In 2013 WWF Caucasus Programme Office initiated expert exchange between Georgian and Armenia. Expert from Armenia, Alexander Malkhazian joined NACRES team in Khevsureti and was involved in searching activities in the study area. Later NACRES team with financial and organizational support of WWF Caucasus Programme Office visited Armenia and participated in wild goat census activity. NACRES team visited Khosrov reserve, Noravanq Canyon and Egegnandzor region in Armenia.

## 3. Development of National Action Plan NAP

### 3.1. Has a NAP been developed<sup>3</sup>(based on the template in Appendix II in the *Strategy*)? If YES:

3.1.1. When, where, how?

<sup>3</sup> Provide any information that is new or has not been reported in the 2011 questionnaire.

NAP has been elaborated with the initiative and financial support of WWF Caucasus Programme Office in 2011. Series of workshops has been organized and all interested parties were involved in the process.

3.1.2. Which stakeholder groups were involved? (GOs, NGOs, local interest groups – list!)

Agency of Protected Areas  
 Vashlovani National Park  
 Tusheti Protected Areas  
 Borjom-Kharagauli National Park  
 The Institute of Zoology  
 Ilia State University  
 Tbilisi Zoo  
 Khevsureti Natural and Cultural Centre “Sane”  
 Association GREEN ALTERNATIVE  
 IUCN, South Caucasus programme Office  
 Biodiversity Protection Service, Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia  
 WWF Caucasus Programme Office  
 NACRES

3.1.3. Was the NAP endorsed by national/provincial authorities (by which)?

NO, although Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Recourses acknowledged the action plan and expressed their support to species conservation.

3.1.4. Was the NAP published and propagated? (Please provide PDF!)

NO

3.1.5. Is funding available/secured for the implementation of the NAP?

YES

3.1.6. Was the NAP/parts of the NAP implemented? If **yes**: how and by whom? If **no**: Why not?

Most of the priority activities outlined in the NAP was implemented, namely:

NACRES team with financial support of WWF, FFI, UNDP, EU and MZF searched all priority sites and tried to obtain data on leopard presence from these sites.

Ilia state university placed cameras Adjara and Lesser Caucasus and obtained data on large mammal species composition in that areas. Leopard presence was searched in those areas although this was not the primary goal of the fieldworks.

Pray species (wild goat, chamois, roe deer and red deer) populations were assessed by Ilia State University, Tbilisi Zoo and NACRES.

State monitoring on pray species is ongoing (implementing by Ilia State University and Tbilisi Zoo) and Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources is supporting/coordinating the monitoring activities.

NACRES and APA, with financial support of CNF and GEF SGP try to establish strong key species (including wild goat, tur, red deer and chamois) monitoring system within protected areas.

Protected areas become more active in combat with poaching, although much more should be done to limit illegal hunting there.

Khevsureti National park was established, with active involvement of WWF Caucasus Programme Office.

Experts from Armenia and Georgia exchange their experience and carried out joint fieldworks in their study areas.

Reintroduction of goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*) is underway and some small groups of individuals living on Samukhi steppe. The individuals often cross Georgian - Azerbaijan border.

3.1.7. Who is responsible for the supervision of the implementation of the NAP?

The Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (MEPNR) had to provide organizational support to any competent organization, specialist and expert willing to participate in the implementation of this Plan.

WWF, NACRES, Tbilisi Zoo and other interested organizations provided technical assistance to any other organizations, specialists and experts willing to contribute to the implementation of the activities outlined in this Plan. The said organizations also made every effort to raise funds for the implementation of this Action Plan.

3.1.7. Was the NAP or an executive summary translated to English? (Provide Word file or PDF!)

Yes (Please see PDF)

3.1.8. If no NAP was developed: Why not?

#### 4. Additional questions

4.1. Are there any *P. p. saxicolor* in captivity in your country?

NO

| Nr. | Specimen (sex, age) | Facility (e.g. Zoo) | Origin of the animals |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.  |                     |                     |                       |
| 2.  |                     |                     |                       |
| 3.  |                     |                     |                       |

Add lines as needed.

4.2. Describe any leopard conservation activities in your country since 2011 that were not based on the *Strategy* or on the NAP:

| Nr. | Activity (goal, action, actor, status) |
|-----|--|
| 1.  |  |
| 2.  |  |
| 3.  |  |

4.3. Do you think that the situation of leopard and its major prey has improved/worsened since the development of the *Strategy* in 2007 and our last update meeting in Istanbul in 2011?

We could not found leopard in the country.

Situation with pray base improved in some parts of Georgia (mostly in central and eastern part of Georgia). Red deer population slightly increased in Lagodekhi and Borjom-kharagauli and red deer appeared in Tusheti and Khevsureti. Wild goat population seems to increasing in Khevsureti and Tusheti. More data needed to define trend of the pray species populations.

4.4. What is the major benefit/shortcomings of the *Strategy* in regard to your country?

Based on the strategy we elaborated Leopard Conservation National Action Plan, which was followed by the involved organizations and around 60% of the activities had been implemented.

# Caucasus leopard questionnaire 2014

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Country: | Iran   |
| Authors: | Marzieh Mousavi, Reza Masoud, Ehsan M.Moqanaki, Amirhossein Kh.Hamidi. |

## 1. Status and monitoring of leopard and prey

### 1.1. Leopard presence since 2007/2011<sup>1</sup>

1.1.1. List all leopard observations in your country since 2007/2011 (e.g. mortalities, photos, genetic proofs, direct observations, skins, etc.); add more lines as needed:

| Nr  | Date | Place (name and coordinates as long/lat)                              | Observation                                  | Category <sup>2</sup><br>1 – 3 | Remarks  |
|-----|------|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 1.  | 2007 | Ardebil province ,Germi,Dizaj;<br>39 00 39.66 N, 47 59 29.67 E        | Mortality                                    | C1                             | A young male leopard, shot dead by the local police due to fear of attack to local people                                  |
| 2.  | 2007 | East Azarbaijan,Dizmar Protected Area;38 52 16.64 N,<br>46 31 39.94 E | Direct observation while passing Aras river. | C1                             |  |
| 3.  | 2007 | East zarbaijan,Kiamaky WR<br>38 45 36.88 N<br>45 37 05.34 E           | Track & scat,                                | C2                             | By Reza Masoud   |
| 4.  | 2007 | East Azarbaijan,Kiamaky WR<br>38 45 09.65 N<br>45 37 42.29 E          | Track  | C2                             | BY Reza Masoud   |
| 5.  | 2007 | East Azarbaijan,Kiamaky WR,<br>38 51 16.60N,45 58 17.56E              | Scrap & track                                | C2                             | BY Reza Masoud   |
| 6.  | 2007 | East zarbaijan,Anza,Arasbaran<br>38 55 37.44N,46 45 45.04E            | Track & scat,                                | C2                             | By Reza Masoud   |
| 7.  | 2007 | East Azarbaijan,Kiamaky<br>38 45 12.47N,45 36 13.53E                  | Observed by a driver,                        | C3                             | Observed at 2:00 am by a driver  |
| 8.  | 2008 | Gilan province ,Dorfak No Hunting Area                                | Mortality and camera-trap picture            | C1                             | Carcass of a young male leopard killed in an intra-specific interaction, the dominant male was photo-captured subsequently |
| 9.  | 2008 | West Azarbaijan,Marakan PA<br>38 59 15.34N,45 27 24.32E               | Direct observation,                          | C1                             |  |
| 10. | 2008 | East Azarbaijan, Dizmar PA<br>38 47 46.41 N,                          | Human attacking,                             | C1                             |  |

<sup>1</sup> The questionnaire covers all information since the compilation of the status report produced as an input for the strategic planning workshop in Tbilisi 30 May – 1 June 2007 (Status and Conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus, 1Cat News Special Issue No. 2, 2007) and since the last questionnaire update in 2011. Please provide also information/data prior to 2011 if they were not yet provided in the 2011 questionnaire (see attached compilation).

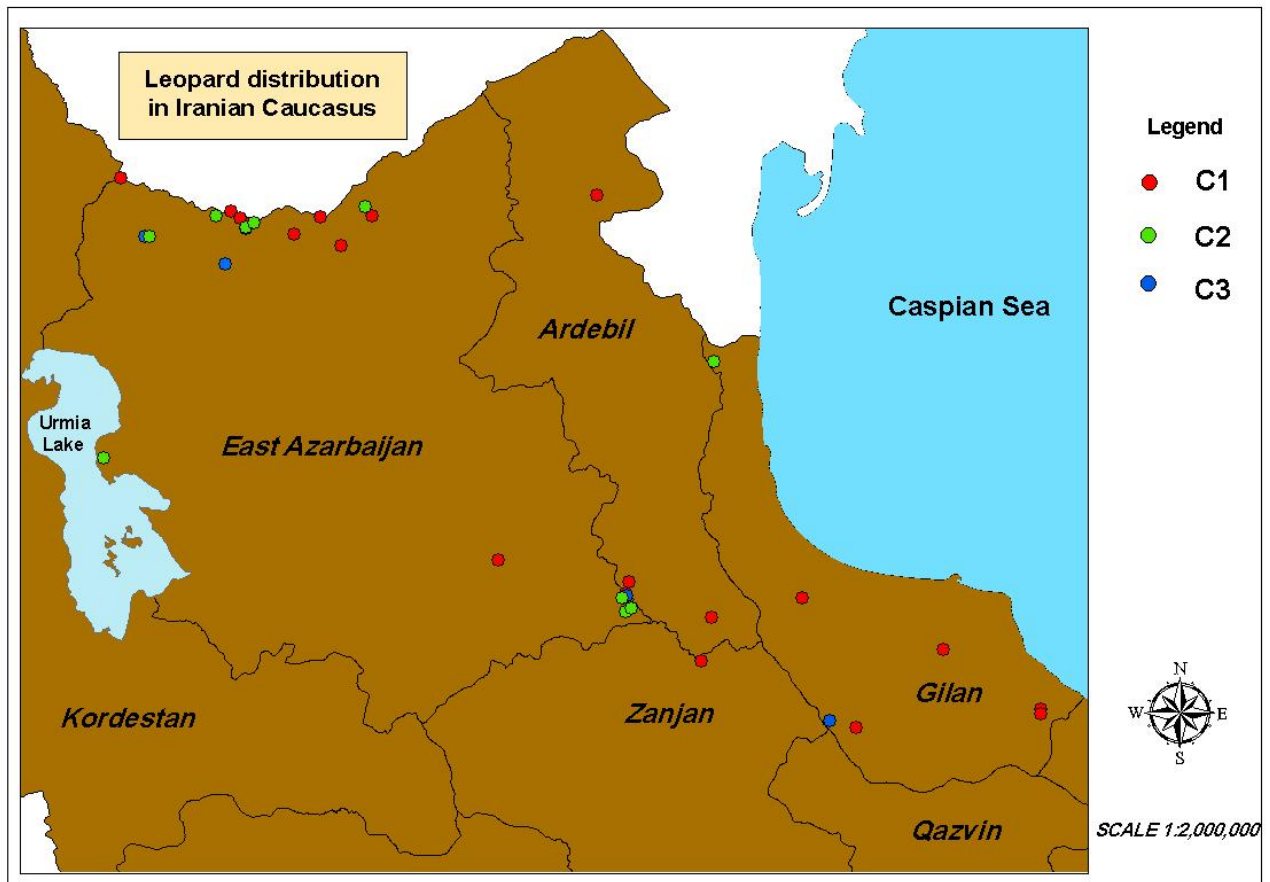
<sup>2</sup> Categories: C1 = "hard facts" (photos, genetic samples, carcasses...); C2 = observations confirmed by trained person; C3 = unconfirmed observation or observation that cannot be confirmed.

|     |      |   |   |    |   |
|-----|------|---|---|----|---|
|     |      | 46 23 35 66 E   |   |    |   |
| 11. | 2008 | East zarbaijan,Kental National Park;38 48 56.59N,<br>46 08 05.12E | Scrap & scat;   | C2 | By Reza Masoud  |
| 12. | 2008 | East Azarbaijan,Eslami Iland<br>37 49 40.66 N<br>45 27 14.53 E    | Track and livestock conflict,                             | C2 | By Reza Masoud  |
| 13. | 2008 | Gilan,Giledeh<br>38 20 03.97N,48 38 14.64E                        | Livestock conflict  | C2 | Report by villagers   |
| 14. | 2008 | East Azarbaijan,38 39 28.44 N,<br>46 02 10.11E                    | Direct observation  | C3 | Observation by shepherd   |
| 15. | 2009 | East zarbaijan,Kental NP<br>38 48 35.46 N<br>46 08 15.45 E        | Direct Observation also<br>Camera trapping,               | C1 | By Reza Masoud  |
| 16. | 2009 | East Azarbaijan,Kental NP<br>38 50 03.48 N<br>46 07 54.98E        | Camera trapping   | C1 | By Reza Masoud  |
| 17. | 2009 | East Azarbaijan,Kaghazkonan;<br>37 21 45.81N,48 12 23.50 E        | Attacking to game guard                                   | C1 |   |
| 18. | 2009 | East Azarbaijan,Arasbaran NP<br>38 53 19.00N,46 47 58.21 E        | Direct observation  | C1 | By game warden  |
| 19. | 2009 | East zarbaijan,Dizmar PA<br>38 54 24.18N ,46 39 06.11E            | Track   | C2 | By Reza Masoud  |
| 20. | 2010 | Gilan province,Siahkal;<br>37 09 09.71N,49 52 12.03 E             | Mortality   | C1 | A young female leopard trapped in wire snares installed for wild boars                  |
| 21. | 2010 | East Azarbaijan,Ghaflankouh<br>37 28 49.69 N,47 32 16.68E         | Direct observation  | C1 |   |
| 22. | 2010 | East Azarbaijan,Kaghazkonan<br>37 17 08.09 N,48 12 36.39E         | Track and observation taking wild boar carcass by leopard | C2 | Reza Masoud & game warden   |
| 23. | 2010 | East Azarbaijan,Kental NP<br>38 48 18.12 N<br>46 08 22.24 E       | Scrap & scat  | C2 | By Reza Masoud  |
| 24. | 2011 | East Azarbaijan,Kiamaky WR<br>38 50 14.46 N,46 10 35.25E          | Report by game guard                                      | C2 | 2011  |
| 25. | 2011 | East Azarbaijan,Kental NP<br>38 48 36.43N,46 08 17.66 E           | Observation by game guard                                 | C1 |   |
| 26. | 2011 | Karnaq village (Agh Dagh PA),<br>Ardabil province                 | Footage   | 1  | The leopard is surrounded by local people and their dogs, but apparently fled the scene |
| 27. | 2012 | Nakhjavan Republic,<br>38 52 40.19 N, 46 03 02.73 E               | Direct observation by Reza Masoud                         | C1 |   |
| 28. | 2012 | East Azarbaijan, Dizmar PA<br>38 45 27.35 N,<br>46 38 41.90 E     | Mortality report  | C1 |   |
| 29. | 2012 | East Azarbaijan,Kaghazkonan<br>37 20 30.83 N, 48 11 39.79E        | Direct observation By game guards & villagers             | C1 |   |



|     |               |   |   |    |  |
|-----|---------------|---|---|----|--|
|     |               |   |   |    |  |
| 30. | 2012          | East Azarbaijan,<br>Mandojin,Kaghazkonan<br>37 21 09.12 N, 48 13 03.61E | Observation by shepherd                                       | C3 |  |
| 31. | 2013          | Gilan,Kelas; 36 50 58.76 N<br>49 17 01.14 E                             | Unverified observation  | C3 | By local people  |
| 32. | 2013          | Gilan,Rudbar;36 49 26.93N,<br>49 25 25.62E                              | Mortality   | C1 | Poaching, an adult female  |
| 33. | 2013          | East Azarbaijan,Kental NP<br>38 51 13.24 N,46 06 03.43 E                | Direct observation by<br>Reza Masoud                          | C1 |  |
| 34. | 2013          | East Azarbaijan,Kaghazkonan<br>37 18 01.34 N,48 14 26.34 E              | Track by Reza Masoud  | C2 |  |
| 35. | 2014          | Gilan,Javaherdasht PA<br>36 53 28.65N<br>50 22 36.08E                   | poaching or poisonous prey<br>due to livestock<br>depredation | C1 | a male leopard,<br>Poached/poisoned,<br>probably due to<br>conflict with local<br>livestock breeders,<br>carcass was found<br>near livestock corrals                   |
| 36. | 2014          | Gilan province ,Masal<br>37 21 43.65 N,<br>49 07 53.16E                 | footage   | C1 | Probably an adult<br>female with two cubs<br>(the cubs are not in<br>the film but the<br>wardens reported<br>two cubs/sub-adults<br>companioning the<br>adult leopard) |
| 37. | 2014          | East Azarbaijan,Kaghazkonan,<br>37 20 34.95N ,48 11 34.98E              | Track by Reza Masoud  | C2 |  |
| 38. | 2014          | Ardebil,Agh dagh Protected Area,<br>37 05 15.72 N,48 36 49.46E          | Game guards, local<br>people                                  | C1 |  |
| 39. | 2013-<br>2014 | Ardebil,Shams abad,<br>37 24 24.09 N,48 13 36.83 E                      | Livestock depredation<br>report by local people               | C2 |  |
| 40. | 2014          | Chubar (Talesh), Gilan province   | Mortality   | C1 | Photo of a poached<br>male leopard   |

1.1.2. Produce a **map of your country** showing the distribution of the number (*Nr*) of the observations listed above, provide map as JPG file.



## 1.2. Leopard survey and monitoring (Objective 2)

1.2.1. Was the leopard survey completed (Target 2.1)?

If YES: describe how, who, and list outcomes. What difficulties did you have during the surveys?

Yes, some of studies were completed and some of them are ongoing:

1. A female leopard was live-trapped in winter 2011 in Kantal NP by East Azarbaijan Wildlife and Fisheries NGO and East Azarbaijan DoE in order to fit it with a GPS radio-collar for spatial studies. But later released because of technical difficulties. The study was abandoned because of Iran's economic sanctions. Donor: Aras Free Trade Zone.
2. Awareness campaign and education of local people in some villages in East Azarbaijan province (Kaghaz konan PA) by East Azarbaijan Wildlife and Fisheries NGO. Donor: SGP
3. Another attempt to capture leopards in Kantal NP in 2012 by Asiatic Leopard Specialists Society and East Azarbaijan DoE but with no success. The study was abandoned.
4. Preliminary assessment of leopard status in Agh Dagh PA, Ardabil, by Mohitban Society in 2012.
5. Field surveys of leopard priority reserves (Arasbaran Biosphere Reserve, Agh Dagh PA, Marakan PA, Kantal NP, Lisar PA) in 2012 using a combination of sign surveys, collection of faecal samples for DNA analysis, and interview with local people and wardens by Ehsan M. Moqanaki (Lund University). Hard evidences were obtained for only Kantal NP and Agh Dagh PA. Wild ungulates found to be scarce. It was suggested that leopards in the Iranian Caucasus appear to be in unfavorable status, in need for urgent conservation actions.
6. Assessment of leopard corridors in habitats expanded along the Aras River between Iran, Armenia, and Azerbaijan using remote sensing analysis by M. Masoud and Faridi in 2012.
7. Modeling the potential distribution of the leopard in the Iranian Caucasus using MAXENT in

2012-13 by Asiatic Leopard Specialists Society and provincial DoE offices

8. Investigation of leopard-local people conflicts in Dorfak No-Hunting Area, Gilan, by Iranian Cheetah Society in 2012-13. Donor: PTES, UK. Human-leopard conflicts because of cattle depredation by leopards were high (48% of respondents were suffered from cattle loss due to leopards). Eighty percent of respondents perceived the leopard as a pest, and approximately 50% of people were supporting leopard eradication/culling.
9. Ongoing: Education and awareness of local people in Kiamaki WR, East Azarbaijan, by East Azarbaijan Wildlife and Fisheries NGO with support of WWF-Turkey.
10. Ongoing: Conservation planning for the leopards in the Iranian Caucasus by Iranian Cheetah Society with support of Wildlife and Biodiversity Bureau of Iran DoE.
11. Ongoing: Leopard survey in Marakan PA by Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

If NO: explain why not.

Lack of funding (in particular for obtaining camera-traps) and proper planning are the main problems for launching a systematic leopard monitoring program across the Iranian Caucasus.

#### 1.2.2. Was a standardised monitoring system developed and established (Target 2.2)?

If YES: describe the methods used, and their pros and cons.

No but opportunistic camera-trappings have been used in Kental National Park. Given the few -- camera-traps that are available and cost of their establishment, this methods has helped to document leopard presence and detection of breeding in the reserve. But the data is not analyzed properly (only unpublished information), and the trapping area is very small (only in a few stations within the main valley of the 70-km<sup>2</sup> Kental).

-Monitoring technique including line transects, opportunistic camera trapping and systematic camera trapping (only in Golestan NP & Bamou NP) have been used for leopard monitoring in Iran so far.

-GPS collaring can be a good method and we have some efforts in Northwest of Iran for capturing leopard and put collar but these projects were unsuccessful.

### 1.3. Prey survey and monitoring (Objective 2)

#### 1.3.1. Was a monitoring system for prey established (Target 2.2)?

If YES: describe the methods used and their reliability.

Monitoring survey of wild ungulates is a national agenda for Iran DoE which undertakes two-times a year in winter and summer using total counts along line transects. Although it is not considered a sophisticated scientific method, this approach is often found reliable enough to detect population trend over consecutive years.

### 1.4. Organisations involved in survey/monitoring

#### 1.4.1. Which authorities are responsible for the survey and monitoring of leopards and prey?

Iran Department of Environment (DoE), provincial offices of DoE in the eco-region: East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Ardebil and Gilan.

#### 1.4.2. Which GOs/NGOs/institutions are involved in surveys and monitoring of leopards and prey?

Esat Azarbaijan Wildlife and Fisheries Organization (local NGO), Asian Leopard Specialist Society (National NGO), Iranian Cheetah Society( National NGO).  
Also it is worth mentioning that there have been other leopard surveys in Iran, outside of the Caucasus eco-region by other NGO's such as Plan for the Land and Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

### 1.5. Research on leopard and prey (Objective 2)

1.5.1. List research activities on leopard and their prey species since 2011 (2007 if not reported before) or ongoing.

| <i>Research project</i>   | <i>Responsible institution and donors</i>                               | <i>Objectives and methods</i>   |
|---|---|---|
| Persian leopards in the Iranian Caucasus: a sinking 'source' population           | Ehsan M.Moqanaki, Cat Specialist Group                                  | It has been mentioned in 1.2.   |
| Investigation of leopard-local people conflicts in Dorfak No-Hunting Area, Gilan, | By Iranian Cheetah Society - Donor: PTES, UK                            | It has been mentioned in 1.2.   |
| Capacity building of local people in Kaghazkonan PA, East Azarbaijan              | Esat Azarbaijan Wildlife and Fisheries Organization                     |   |
| Preliminary assessment of leopard status in Agh dagh PA.                          | By Mohitban society- Donor: DoE   | Objectives: Determination leopard distribution, prey items, threats & conservation planning in the region by line transect and opportunistic camera trapping and interview.                                       |
| Ongoing : Conservation planning for the leopards in the Iranian Caucasus          | by Iranian Cheetah Society –Donor: DoE(Wild life & Biodiversity Bureau) | Objectives: Preparing leopard distribution map, local people attitudes, prediction population size of leopard in the Eco-region, habitat modelling, surveillance leopard conflicts and threats in the Eco-Region. |
| Ongoing : Study of leopard occurrences in Marakan Protected Area                  | Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation.                                   | Determination of Leopard distribution in the area by line transect and camera trapping.   |
|   |   |   |

1.5.2. List of new publications (released in 2011 or later) or reports on leopards or leopard-conservation related issues from the Caucasus area of your country (please provide PDF copy).

- 1- Moqanaki E. M., Breitenmoser U., Kiabi B. H., Masoud M. & Bensch S. (2013). Persian leopards in the Iranian Caucasus: a sinking 'source' population? Cat News, 59, 22-25.
2. Babrgir, S., Bagheri, S., & Soleymani, M. 2014. Capacity building of local communities to conserve the Persian leopard in the Caucasus Eco-region of Iran. Final report submitted to People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), UK. 80 pp.
3. Preliminary assessment of leopard status in Agh dagh Protected Area, by Chalani M.(2012), Final report submitted to DoE (in Farsi).

## 2. Endorsement and implementation of the Strategy

### 2.1. Has the *Strategy* be formally endorsed?

If YES: list all agencies/ministries that have endorsed the *Strategy* in your country.

NO

If NO: why?

Collaboration between Iran DoE and other Iranian ministries has been weak and few attempts have been made to establish such collaborations, but it seems that the tide is changing. Iran DoE is planned to launch a National action plan for the Persian leopards, with the help of IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group in 2015 to facilitate endorsement of the Strategy.

### 2.2. Protected areas and corridors (Objective 4)

2.2.1. Was a regional PA Plan developed and established (Target 4.1)?

There is no official plan, but PAs in Iran are developed based on recommendation of provincial DoE offices and official guidelines, and then the reserve will be introduced formally as a protected area by Iran DoE.

2.2.2. Were new PA(s) for leopard conservation established (Target 4.2)? (Year of endorsement)

-Kiamaki WR core zone has been upgraded to National Park in 2011; Kental NP.  
-Arasbaran PA core zone has been upgraded to National Park in 2012; Arasbaran NP.  
- Kaghz konan No Hunting Area core zone has turned to Protected Area in 2011.

2.2.3. Was a new corridor for leopard migration established (Target 4.3)? (Year of endorsement)

Significant corridors of leopard in East Azarbaijan including Boz ghush and Yari ghari have been determined as Protected Areas respectively in 2011 and 2012.

### 2.3. International cooperation in leopard conservation (Objective 9)

2.3.1. Is cross-border illegal wildlife trade an issue in your country? If yes: Were any measures taken to stop cross-border illegal trade (Target 9.1)?

There is no known illegal trade of leopards or prey in Northwest borders of Iran.

2.3.2. Has your country signed an international memorandum/agreement with focus on leopard conservation (Target 9.2)? If YES: Which ministry, with which country/countries?

There are plans to sign such a agreement with Armenia.

2.3.3. Does your country participate in an (international) expert group on leopard conservation? If YES: What group, with which countries participating?

Some Iranian researchers (from NGOs and CACP) are a member in IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group.

### 3. Development of National Action Plan NAP

**3.1. Has a NAP been developed<sup>3</sup>** (based on the template in Appendix II in the *Strategy*)? If YES:

3.1.1. When, where, how?

3.1.2. Which stakeholder groups were involved? (GOs, NGOs, local interest groups – list!)

3.1.3. Was the NAP endorsed by national/provincial authorities (by which)?

3.1.4. Was the NAP published and propagated? (Please provide PDF!)

3.1.5. Is funding available/secured for the implementation of the NAP?

3.1.6. Was the NAP/parts of the NAP implemented? If **yes**: how and by whom? If **no**: Why not?

3.1.7. Who is responsible for the supervision of the implementation of the NAP?

3.1.7. Was the NAP or an executive summary translated to English? (Provide Word file or PDF!)

3.1.8. If no NAP was developed: Why not?

DoE is very interested in NAP developing, but in recent years because of lack of relevant fund this action has not been conducted. A NAP will be developed in spring 2015.

### 4. Additional questions

4.1. Are there any *P. p. saxicolor* in captivity in your country?

| Nr. | Specimen (sex, age) | Facility (e.g. Zoo)                                  | Origin of the animals                 |
|-----|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Female, adult       | Eram zoo, Tehran                                     | Mazandaran province                   |
| 2.  | Male, adult         | Eram zoo, Tehran                                     | Mazandaran province                   |
| 3.  | Female, adult       | Shiraz zoo, Fars province                            | Fars Province                         |
| 4.  | Male, cub           | In a small enclosure, under control of Golestan DoE  | Golestan province                     |
| 5.  | Female, cub         | In a small enclosure, under control of Golestan DoE  | Golestan province                     |
| 6.  | Male, sub adult,    | Vakil Abad zoo, Mashhad, Khorasan-e- Razavi province | Khorasan-e-Razavi, Torbate Heydariyeh |

Add lines as needed.

4.2. Describe any leopard conservation activities in your country since 2011 that were not based on the *Strategy* or on the NAP:

<sup>3</sup> Provide any information that is new or has not been reported in the 2011 questionnaire.

| Nr. | Activity (goal, action, actor, status)   |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | Systematic camera trapping in Golestan NP, estimation population size and density of leopard, by Wildlife Heritage Foundation. By Hamidi et al. 2014, Cat News.  |
| 2.  | Predator-prey relationships in a middle Asian Montane steppe: Persian leopard versus urial wild sheep in Northeastern Iran, <i>European Journal of Wildlife Research</i> , 60(2),(2014), 341-349. By Farhadinia, M. S., Moqanaki, E. M. & Hosseini-Zavarei, F. |
| 3.  | Status of leopards in Bashagerd Area, southern Iran. By Ghadirian and Ghasemi, (2012), Cat News.   |
| 4.  | Status of Persian leopards in Qazvin province. Final reported submitted to Qazvin DoE. By Farhadinia M.S, Moqanaki E.M., Khosravi S., Mozaffari A., Rezazadeh S.   |
| 5.  | Diet and habitat use of the endangered Persian leopard in North-eastern Iran, <i>Turkish Journal of Zoology</i> 37, (2013), 554-561. By Taghdisi et al.  |

4.3. Do you think that the situation of leopard and its major prey has improved/worsened since the development of the Strategy in 2007 and our last update meeting in Istanbul in 2011?

Basically concerning massive expansion in human population and habitat destruction, situation of leopard and its prey base is not satisfactory in all habitats, we had sporadic researches and public awareness in the eco-region but they are not adequate at all. No tough activities conducted in the eco-region in previous years due to lack of budget or technical capacities. Researches, capacity building, public awareness moreover strengthen protection facilities and number of game guards is highly needed for efficient conservation of leopard and its habitats that all need sufficient budget that regarding leopard habitat extension in Iran government is unable to provide its alone and international organizations should help Iran government and researchers in this situation.

4.4. What are the major benefit/shortcomings of the Strategy in regard to your country?

In the strategy almost all needs for betterment situation of leopard and its habitats have been considered but in our opinion international co-operation and networking has not been resolved so far, that is very significant in leopard conservation in this eco-region.

# Caucasus leopard questionnaire 2014

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Country: | Russia   |
| Authors: | Victor Lukarevskiy, Natalia Dronova, Yuriy Yarovenko |

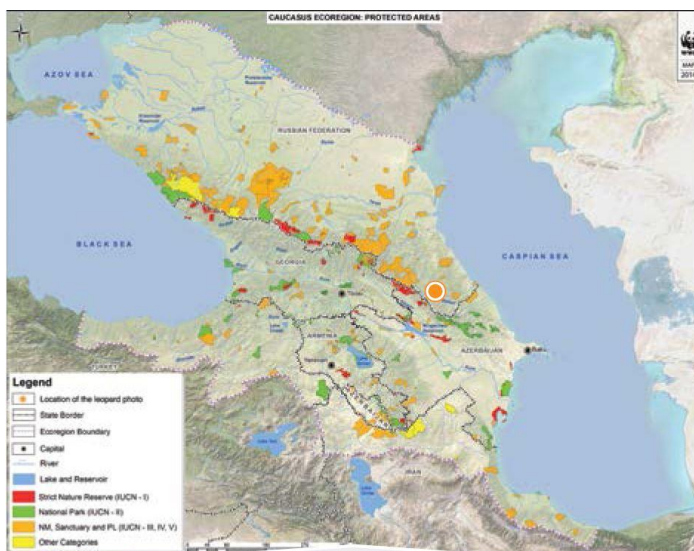
## 1. Status and monitoring of leopard and prey

### 1.1. Leopard presence since 2007/2011<sup>1</sup>

1.1.1. List all leopard observations in your country since 2007/2011 (e.g. mortalities, photos, genetic proofs, direct observations, skins, etc.); add more lines as needed:

| Nr | Date                     | Place (name and coordinates as long/lat)             | Observation | Category <sup>2</sup><br>1 – 3 | Remarks               |
|----|--------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | 01.2013                  | Severnaya Osetia, Assa river basin                   | Video       | C1                             | Military              |
| 2. | October 2013             | The Chechen Republic, Argun river basin              |             | C3                             | verbal communications |
| 3. | October<br>December 2013 | Kabardino Balkaria                                   |             | C3                             | verbal communications |
| 4. | 06. 2013                 | Dagestan, Tlaratinski zakaznik                       |             | C3                             | verbal communications |
| 5. | 15.04.2009               | Dagestan, Andiyskoe koisu                            | foto        | C1                             | hunter                |
| 6. | 06. 2014                 | Dagestan, Tlaratinski zakaznik, Dzhurmut river basin |             | C3                             | verbal communications |

1.1.2. Produce a **map of your country** showing the distribution of the number (Nr) of the observations listed above, provide map as JPG file.



Orange spot: Location where photo was taken in 2009

<sup>1</sup> The questionnaire covers all information since the compilation of the status report produced as an input for the strategic planning workshop in Tbilisi 30 May – 1 June 2007 (Status and Conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus, Cat News Special Issue No. 2, 2007) and since the last questionnaire update in 2011. Please provide also information/data prior to 2011 if they were not yet provided in the 2011 questionnaire (see attached compilation).

<sup>2</sup> Categories: C1 = "hard facts" (photos, genetic samples, carcasses...); C2 = observations confirmed by trained person; C3 = unconfirmed observation or observation that cannot be confirmed.



**1.2. Leopard survey and monitoring (Objective 2)**

1.2.1. Was the leopard survey completed (Target 2.1)?

If YES: describe how, who, and list outcomes. What difficulties did you have during the surveys?

Yuriy Yarovenko conducted research in Dagestan using camera traps

If NO: explain why not.

not a lot of camera traps one unit in the area

1.2.2. Was a standardised monitoring system developed and established (Target 2.2)?

The results of studies have not confirmed the presence of a leopard in the study area

If YES: describe the methods used, and their pros and cons.

not developed a standardised monitoring system

**1.3. Prey survey and monitoring (Objective 2)**

1.3.1. Was a monitoring system for prey established (Target 2.2)?

Monitoring the status of populations of ungulates in the Caucasian Reserve, Teberdinsky Reserve, Kabarda Reserve

If YES: describe the methods used and their reliability.

Census of ungulates in the model sites. Counts held annually by qualified zoologists

**1.4. Organisations involved in survey/monitoring**

1.4.1. Which authorities are responsible for the survey and monitoring of leopards and prey?

Reserve Administration is responsible for the timing, quality and volumes of work to monitor populations of large mammals in the reserve.

1.4.2. Which GOs/NGOs/institutions are involved in surveys and monitoring of leopards and prey?

**1.5. Research on leopard and prey (Objective 2)**

1.5.1. List research activities on leopard and their prey species since 2011 (2007 if not reported before) or ongoing.

| <i>Research project</i>   | <i>Responsible institution and donors</i> | <i>Objectives and methods</i>  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Status and Distribution of Leopards in the Mountains of Daghestan, Russia<br>3. GIS mapping of habitats and further field research to identify the priority leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> ) areas in Dagestan, Russian North Caucasus | Rufford Small Grants Foundation           | 1. Status and Distribution of Leopards in the Mountains of Daghestan.<br>3. Further field research to identify the priority leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> ) areas in Dagestan |

1.5.2. List of new publications (released in 2011 or later) or reports on leopards or leopard-conservation related issues from the Caucasus area of your country (please provide PDF copy).

[http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/yury\\_yarovenko](http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/yury_yarovenko)

## 2. Endorsement and implementation of the Strategy

### 2.1. Has the *Strategy* be formally endorsed?

If YES: list all agencies/ministries that have endorsed the *Strategy* in your country.

If NO: why?

### 2.2. Protected areas and corridors (Objective 4)

2.2.1. Was a regional PA Plan developed and established (Target 4.1)?

2.2.2. Were new PA(s) for leopard conservation established (Target 4.2)? (Year of endorsement)

2.2.3. Was a new corridor for leopard migration established (Target 4.3)? (Year of endorsement)

### 2.3. International cooperation in leopard conservation (Objective 9)

2.3.1. Is cross-border illegal wildlife trade an issue in your country? If yes: Were any measures taken to stop cross-border illegal trade (Target 9.1)?

2.3.2. Has your country signed an international memorandum/agreement with focus on leopard conservation (Target 9.2)? If YES: Which ministry, with which country/countries?

2.3.3. Does your country participate in an (international) expert group on leopard conservation? If YES: What group, with which countries participating?

## 3. Development of National Action Plan NAP

### 3.1. Has a NAP been developed<sup>3</sup> (based on the template in Appendix II in the *Strategy*)? If YES:

3.1.1. When, where, how?

3.1.2. Which stakeholder groups were involved? (GOs, NGOs, local interest groups – list!)

3.1.3. Was the NAP endorsed by national/provincial authorities (by which)?

3.1.4. Was the NAP published and propagated? (Please provide PDF!)

3.1.5. Is funding available/secured for the implementation of the NAP?

<sup>3</sup> Provide any information that is new or has not been reported in the 2011 questionnaire.

3.1.6. Was the NAP/parts of the NAP implemented? If **yes**: how and by whom? If **no**: Why not?

3.1.7. Who is responsible for the supervision of the implementation of the NAP?

3.1.7. Was the NAP or an executive summary translated to English? (Provide Word file or PDF!)

3.1.8. If no NAP was developed: Why not?

#### 4. Additional questions

4.1. Are there any *P. p. saxicolor* in captivity in your country?

| Nr. | Specimen (sex, age) | Facility (e.g. Zoo)   | Origin of the animals |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.  | Male, old (<15>)    |                       | Turkmenistan          |
| 2.  | Male, old (<15>)    |                       | Turkmenistan          |
| 3.  | Male,               | Zoo                   | Portugal              |
| 4.  | Female              | Zoo                   | Portugal              |
| 5.  | Female, (7-8)       |                       | Iran                  |
| 6.  | Male (2013)         | Breeding              | Sochi Centre          |
| 7.  | Male (2013)         | Breeding              | Sochi Centre          |
| 8.  | Male (2013)         | Breeding (handraised) | Sochi Centre          |
| 9.  | Female (2013)       | Breeding              | Sochi Centre          |
| 10. | Cub (2014)          | Breeding              | Sochi Centre          |

Add lines as needed.

4.2. Describe any leopard conservation activities in your country since 2011 that were not based on the *Strategy* or on the NAP:

| Nr. | Activity (goal, action, actor, status) |
|-----|--|
| 1.  |  |
| 2.  |  |
| 3.  |  |

4.3. Do you think that the situation of leopard and its major prey has improved/worsened since the development of the Strategy in 2007 and our last update meeting in Istanbul in 2011?

the situation of major prey of leopard has improved

4.4. What is the major benefit/shortcomings of the Strategy in regard to your country?

# Caucasus leopard questionnaire 2014

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Country: | Turkey                                       |
| Authors: | Batur Avgan, Ahmet Emre Kütükçü, Sedat Kalem |

## 1. Status and monitoring of leopard and prey

### 1.1. Leopard presence since 2007/2011<sup>1</sup>

1.1.1. List all leopard observations in your country since 2007/2011 (e.g. mortalities, photos, genetic proofs, direct observations, skins, etc.); add more lines as needed:

| Nr | Date       | Place (name and coordinates as long/lat) | Observation   | Category <sup>2</sup><br>1 – 3 | Remarks   |
|----|------------|--|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. | 03.11.2013 | Çınar, Diyarbakır (37°43'N, 40°24' E)    | A male leopard was killed by local shepherds                              | C1                             | Believed to be a dispersing individual because (1) it was the first leopard record from Diyarbakır, (2) of the close proximity to Iraq where leopards are regularly killed. |
| 2. | 2013       | Beytüşşebap, Şırnak (37°34'N, 43°09' E)  | Two groups of local people observed a leopard twice within the same week. | C3                             | The observers were independent from each other.   |
| 3. | 12.11.2010 | Mt. Gabar, Şırnak (37°33'N, 42°05' E)    | A male was found dead. Carcass was photographed.                          | C1                             | Skin is currently owned by a local at Siirt.  |
| 4. | 2009       | Erzincan (39°44'N, 39°30' E)             | Photo of a skin at the Facebook account of Ferit İnan                     | C3                             | Claimed to be killed in self-defence. This record was listed at the 2011 Questionnaire.   |
| 5. | 2009       | Bitlis (38°23'N, 42°07' E)               | A male claimed to be killed by a local.                                   | C3                             | Same person has a skin of another leopard claimed to be killed in 2003 at Bitlis. This record was listed at the 2011 Questionnaire.   |
| 6. | 2008       | Tunceli (39°06'N, 39°32' E)              | Photo of a leopard skin.  | C3                             | Claimed to be killed in 2008. This record was listed at the 2011 Questionnaire.   |

1.1.2. Produce a **map of your country** showing the distribution of the number (*Nr*) of the observations listed above, provide map as JPG file.

<sup>1</sup> The questionnaire covers all information since the compilation of the status report produced as an input for the strategic planning workshop in Tbilisi 30 May – 1 June 2007 (Status and Conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus, Cat News Special Issue No. 2, 2007) and since the last questionnaire update in 2011. Please provide also information/data prior to 2011 if they were not yet provided in the 2011 questionnaire (see attached compilation).

<sup>2</sup> Categories: C1 = "hard facts" (photos, genetic samples, carcasses...); C2 = observations confirmed by trained person; C3 = unconfirmed observation or observation that cannot be confirmed.



## 1.2. Leopard survey and monitoring (Objective 2)

### 1.2.1. Was the leopard survey completed (Target 2.1)?

If YES: describe how, who, and list outcomes. What difficulties did you have during the surveys?

If NO: explain why not.

- No hard records on leopard exist from the Turkish side of the ecoregion.
- Lack of confidence towards stratified monitoring within the authorities.
- Lack of interest towards the conservation of leopard ecosystems.
- Lack of holistic approach

### 1.2.2. Was a standardised monitoring system developed and established (Target 2.2)?

If YES: describe the methods used, and their pros and cons.

## 1.3. Prey survey and monitoring (Objective 2)

### 1.3.1. Was a monitoring system for prey established (Target 2.2)?

If YES: describe the methods used and their reliability.

Bezoar goat and chamois populations are annually estimated through point counts by GDNCNP. However the counts are made only in certain category PAs. No counts are done for wild boar or for small prey (i.e. brown hare). No counts are done outside of PAs. The results of the Bezoar goat and chamois counts are proved to be unreliable as estimation results vary up to hundred times within consecutive years.

## 1.4. Organisations involved in survey/monitoring

### 1.4.1. Which authorities are responsible for the survey and monitoring of leopards and prey?

The General Directorate for Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP, Ministry of Forestry & Water Affairs) is the responsible governmental organization. They conduct opportunistic camera-trapping and monitoring surveys with some national experts and academicians based on protocols.

## 1.4.2. Which GOs/NGOs/institutions are involved in surveys and monitoring of leopards and prey?

Though not in the Caucasus region, a project to establish a monitoring network in SE Turkey is carried out by Batur Avgan from Doğal Kaynak ve Biyolojik Çeşitliliği Koruma Derneği (NGO based at Antalya) at Şırnak, Siirt, Bitlis provinces. GDNCNP provincial offices and Karadeniz Technical University do the monitoring of prey in Caucasus.

## 1.5. Research on leopard and prey (Objective 2)

## 1.5.1. List research activities on leopard and their prey species since 2011 (2007 if not reported before) or ongoing.

| <i>Research project</i>            | <i>Responsible institution and donors</i> | <i>Objectives and methods</i>   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Southeast Anatolia Leopard Project | GEF Small Grants Programme                | Objective: (1) Identify (1) the reasons behind the leopard killings in the region, (2) understand people's attitudes towards leopard, (3) clarify leopard's status.<br>Methods: Interviews with local people. |

## 1.5.2. List of new publications (released in 2011 or later) or reports on leopards or leopard-conservation related issues from the Caucasus area of your country (please provide PDF copy).

None for Caucasus region.

## 2. Endorsement and implementation of the Strategy

2.1. Has the *Strategy* be formally endorsed?

If YES: list all agencies/ministries that have endorsed the *Strategy* in your country.

The Deputy DG of GDNCNP was involved in the development of the *Strategy* in 2008 and it was assumed that it was informally endorsed; however since no further action has been taken with regards to the development of a national action plan, it is questionable if it was really endorsed.

If NO: why?

- (1) Lack of solid information on leopard in Turkey for decades.
- (2) Lack of political consistency in wildlife conservation.

## 2.2. Protected areas and corridors (Objective 4)

## 2.2.1. Was a regional PA Plan developed and established (Target 4.1)?

No.

## 2.2.2. Were new PA(s) for leopard conservation established (Target 4.2)? (Year of endorsement)

No.

## 2.2.3. Was a new corridor for leopard migration established (Target 4.3)? (Year of endorsement)

No.

### 2.3. International cooperation in leopard conservation (Objective 9)

2.3.1. Is cross-border illegal wildlife trade an issue in your country? If yes: Were any measures taken to stop cross-border illegal trade (Target 9.1)?

Yes. Measures taken to stop cross-border illegal trade are insufficient.

2.3.2. Has your country signed an international memorandum/agreement with focus on leopard conservation (Target 9.2)? If YES: Which ministry, with which country/countries?

No specific international memorandum/agreement has been signed by Turkey, except Bern and CITES.

2.3.3. Does your country participate in an (international) expert group on leopard conservation? If YES: What group, with which countries participating?

IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group

## 3. Development of National Action Plan NAP

3.1. Has a NAP been developed<sup>3</sup> (based on the template in Appendix II in the *Strategy*)? If YES:

3.1.1. When, where, how?

3.1.2. Which stakeholder groups were involved? (GOs, NGOs, local interest groups – list!)

3.1.3. Was the NAP endorsed by national/provincial authorities (by which)?

3.1.4. Was the NAP published and propagated? (Please provide PDF!)

3.1.5. Is funding available/secured for the implementation of the NAP?

3.1.6. Was the NAP/parts of the NAP implemented? If **yes**: how and by whom? If **no**: Why not?

3.1.7. Who is responsible for the supervision of the implementation of the NAP?

3.1.7. Was the NAP or an executive summary translated to English? (Provide Word file or PDF!)

3.1.8. If no NAP was developed: Why not?

This was proposed last time to the GDNCNP when the leopard was killed in Diyarbakir in Nov 2013. The approach of GDNCNP was to start with a national strategy and prioritization of species for which national action plans to be developed. During a meeting in February 2014, the NAP was planned for 2014. However its geographical scope was later reduced to SE Turkey only and was postponed to 2015. In July 2014, the NAP was postponed indefinitely, because of the lack of significant amount of information.

<sup>3</sup> Provide any information that is new or has not been reported in the 2011 questionnaire.

#### 4. Additional questions

4.1. Are there any *P. p. saxicolor* in captivity in your country?

| Nr. | Specimen (sex, age) | Facility (e.g. Zoo)          | Origin of the animals |
|-----|---------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.  | Male                | Faruk Yalçın Zoo (Istanbul ) |                       |
| 2.  | Male                | Gaziantep Zoo (SE Turkey )   | Israel                |
| 3.  | Male                | Bursa Zoo (NW Turkey )       |                       |

Add lines as needed.

4.2. Describe any leopard conservation activities in your country since 2011 that were not based on the *Strategy* or on the NAP:

| Nr. | Activity (goal, action, actor, status)   |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | With the funding from GEF/SGP and GDNCNP, Southeast Anatolia Leopard Project is carried out to identify (1) the reasons behind the leopard killings in the region, (2) understand people's attitudes towards leopard, (3) clarify leopard's status. Activities: (1) A network was set within local NGOs, hunters, armed forces, authorities. (2) Interviews are carried out with locals. Actors: Project is carried out by Batur Avgan for Doğal Kaynak ve Biyolojik Çeşitliliği Koruma Derneği (an NGO based in Antalya) with the support of GEF/SGP. GDNCNP and Doğa ve Kültür Derneği are project partners. Status: Started in September 2013. Still ongoing. |

4.3. Do you think that the situation of leopard and its major prey has improved/worsened since the development of the *Strategy* in 2007 and our last update meeting in Istanbul in 2011?

While recent hard records from SE Turkey were promising, no solid information on the presence of leopard is known from the Caucasus part of Turkey.

4.4. What is the major benefit/shortcomings of the *Strategy* in regard to your country?

The 2007 strategy was well made however its implementation was not well described.