INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION (ICSC)
ABSTRACTS

国际雪豹保护大会
论文摘要集

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CONSERVATION (ICSC)

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Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)

World Wide Foundation for Nature (WWF)

resident communities of these landscapes.

Kazakhstan

Snow leopard in Kazakhstan

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Abstract: Snow leopard is one of the state symbols of the Republic of Kazakhstan, reflecting its priceless natural and cultural heritage. In 2012-2014, the Institute of Zoology implemented a large-scale scientific project to clarify the current state of snow leopard, for the first time during the years of country's independence. The research showed that snow leopard's areal, covering all the mountain systems of the Southern, South-Eastern and Eastern Kazakhstan (from Western Tien-Shan to Altai) in recent decades has been shrinking, primarily because of peripheral mountain ranges. Currently, snow leopard does not inhabit and rarely visits the ranges such as Kyrghyz Alatau, Uzynkara (Ketmen), Altyn-Emel, Tarbagatai. Their numbers, according to expert estimates, decreased from 180-200 individuals in the 1970-s to 110-130 at present. In the Western Tien-Shan, there are 13-15 individuals, Northern Tien-Shan – 46-53, in Jungar Alatau – 40-50, in Altai and Saur-Tarbagatai – 11-13. The conservation of snow leopard and its ecosystems is supported by an effective network of protected areas including 4 reserves, 7 national parks and 4 wildlife sanctuaries that cover all main habitats. Today, main threats to snow leopard's existence are: poaching of both snow leopard and its prey species (ungulates); reduction of food; reduction and fragmentation of habitats due to the increased number of livestock in the mountains, construction of roads, sports complexes, resorts and other facilities; traps and loops set for wolves; disturbance factor due to increasing tourists flow to the mountains. In 2015, Kazakhstan adopted the "Action Plan for conservation of snow leopard in Kazakhstan for 2015-2020" which outlined main strategic objectives and ways to implement them: reduce poaching, improve network of protected areas, support environmental education, expand international cooperation, improve environmental legislation, and breed animals in captivity for the purpose of reintroduction.

Keywords: snow leopard, Kazakhstan, distribution, abundance, habitat, threats, protected areas, conservation, action plan

The concept of restoring disappeared populations of snow leopards and supporting the endangered ones in Kazakhstan by means of breeding, rehabilitation and reintroduction

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Abstract: By the mid-20th century, snow leopard's range in Kazakhstan has decreased significantly. The species disappeared from many peripheral branches of the Western and Northern Tien Shan, Dzhungar Alatau, Altai and other mountain areas, and the abundance fell from 200 to 130 individuals. Fragmentation of the range lead to the isolation of groups of snow leopards and made their contacts difficult or impossible. Kazakhstan has adopted "The Strategy" (2011) and "The National Action Plan" (2015) for the conservation of snow leopard that aims at recovering the extinct and shrinking snow leopard populations through artificial breeding with subsequent reintroduction. Founded in 2018, the Snow Leopard Foundation, in partnership with the Institute of Zoology, started "The Kingdom of Snow Leopard" Project. Its initial stage covers the experimental development of methodology for reintroduction of snow leopards into wildlife. It includes the construction of Center for Breeding and Adaptation in the mountains where the following will take place: forming a breeding group of snow leopards and their food base; habitat restoration in surrounding areas; breeding; adaptation of cubs and their release into wildlife; a monitoring system; publicity. Young snow leopard's ability to live in the wild, avoiding people, their ability to hunt and communicate with relatives will be of high priority. The enclosures will be as close to the natural environment as possible. The cubs will go through three stages of rehabilitation. First is learning the initial hunting skills in an enclosure of the breeding sector, where they are kept with mothers up to 10-12 months. Secondly, they will be transferred to an adaptation enclosure of 3-5 ha to master their predatory skills until they are 2 years. The third stage – adult animals transferred to an enclosure of 500 ha. The cats will hunt here without human help in the habitat with natural abundance of prey objects. Then they will be released into wildlife. This project

envisions reintroduction as one of the ways to maintain the declining natural populations of snow leopard in the vicinity of Almaty and other regions of Kazakhstan.

Keywords: Conservation; Snow leopard; Breeding; Rehabilitation; Reintroduction;

Kazakhstan

Part A

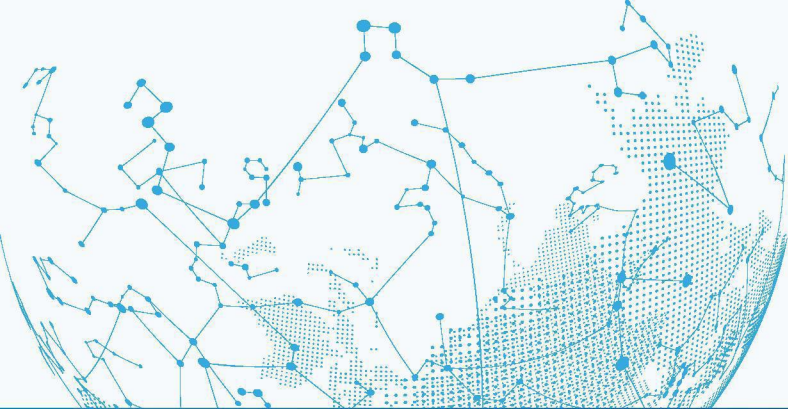# Transboundary Conservation of Snow Leopards

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Tolkunbek Asykulov[4], Askar Davletbakov[9], Saltore Saparbayev[10], David Mallon[11]

1. Marwell Wildlife, U.K.; 2, Wildlife Without Borders, U.K.; 3. NABU, Germany; 4. NABU Kygyzstan; 5.The Wildlife Institute, Beijing Forestry University; 6.Eco-Bridge Continental, China; 7. Institute of Zoology, Ministry of Education and Science, Kazakhstan; 8.Wildlife Without Borders Kazakhstan; 9. National Academy of Science, Kyrgyzstan; 10. Almaty State Nature Reserve, Kazakhstan; 11. Manchester Metropolitan University, U.K

Abstract: The needs of snow leopard conservation have been well articulated through the GSLEP and the Bishkek Declaration signed by all range stated in 2013. These needs closely align with requirements to follow sustainable development pathways in the Central Asian Mountains, and avert catastrophic ecosystem declines that would have dire consequences for both the people and nature. A key objective has been identified around closer transboundary cooperation, where joint conservation actions and national strategies for snow leopards combine with sustainable approaches to ecosystem protection and human wellbeing.

Here we present experiences following an opportunity to develop a regional snow leopard conservation initiative between Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and China. Having assembled an international team, including members from each country and technical support, we conducted initial scoping workshops to identify needs, establish working processes and set priorities. We identified the border area centered on the Tomur Feng / PikPobedy (TF-PP) landscape as the focus for this initiative. Building on existing cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, the addition of China offers opportunities for significant progress towards meeting regional and global targets for climate, development and biodiversity.

Keywords: International; Transboundary; Conservation; Snow leopard

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