

First Range State Meeting for the Persian Leopard
Tbilisi, Georgia, 20 – 22 September 2022

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PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

Summary: The CMS Secretariat prepared the present document to inform the Meeting of procedural arrangements in the framework of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) (Part I of the document) and to propose procedural arrangements for the Range-Wide Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard (Part II of the document). Revision 1 and 2 were prepared to correct a mistake and to update the tentative list of national focal points.

Action requested: Review the document and agree on:

- List of National Focal Points for the Persian Leopard
- Species Focal Point for the Persian Leopard in the CAMI framework
- Meetings of Range States

Introduction

1. [Central Asian Mammals Initiative of CMS](#) (CAMI) acts as a framework to facilitate the implementation of the existing CMS instruments and mandates targeting large mammals in the wider Central Asian region. CAMI and its associated Programme of Work (POW) were adopted by the CMS Parties at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) in 2014 in Quito, Ecuador (Resolution 11.24 on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative). The overall goal of the CAMI is to improve the conservation status of large migratory mammals and their habitats in the region by strengthening coordination and cross-border cooperation and by addressing major threats.
2. Priority areas for actions under CAMI include the removal of barriers to migration, the maintenance and restoration of transboundary ecological networks, and the preservation of animal migrations in the Central Asian region as one of the last global “migration hotspots”. The POW provides a roadmap for action to conserve 15 CMS-listed mammal species in 14 Range States, namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. In 2020 the Persian Leopard was added to CAMI by the Islamic Republic of Iran.
3. The Development of the Range-Wide Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard was mandated by the CMS Parties via Activity 19.1 of the Programme of Work for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI POW) 2021-2026 (Resolution 11.24 (Rev.COP13)). The Strategy should therefore be integrated into the CAMI framework. Part I of the present document summarizes procedural arrangements within the CAMI framework, including: a) CAMI Focal Points, b) meetings of CAMI Range States, c) reporting requirements. The Secretariat suggests that the Persian Leopard Range States should adopt a similar approach for procedural arrangements, as outlined in Part II under respective headings.

Part I: Background

A. CAMI Focal Points

4. The National Focal Points (NFPs) for the CAMI are the same as the CMS NFPs in the CAMI Range States, unless the CMS NFP delegates this responsibility to a colleague. The Range States that are not Parties to CMS can nominate any government focal point with relevant competencies.
5. In addition to the National Focal Points, there are [Species Focal Points \(SFPs\) within CAMI](#). They are conservation and biology experts assigned to each of the 15 CAMI species. The SFP advises the Secretariat on matters related to the CAMI priority species for which he/she is responsible. The experts come from a variety of backgrounds: independent scientists, academics, or employees of government institutions. All have a proven track record of scientific research, fieldwork experience, and a network of contacts in the Range State(s) of their species. Visit the CAMI website to view [the terms of reference for the SFPs](#).

B. Meetings of CAMI Range States

6. The meetings of the CAMI Range States are held once every six years. The next CAMI Range States Meeting is to take place in 2026. The second Range State Meeting of the CMS CAMI was hosted by the Ministry for Environment and Tourism of Mongolia in 2019 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia after the adoption of the initiative in 2014. A new POW covering the 2021-2026 period was developed as an outcome of the meeting.

C. National Reporting on CAMI POW Implementation

7. CAMI Range States agreed on their own reporting practice under the Initiative in order to provide more detailed information than can be included in the CMS National Report. A report on the implementation of the CAMI POW is required every 6 years and is to be submitted to the CMS Secretariat one year before the Meeting of the CAMI Range States. The Secretariat will make those reports available on the CAMI website and provide an analysis of the status of implementation before the next meeting of the Range States. This analysis will inform the revision of CAMI POW for the next cycle. The next CAMI POW Implementation report will be due in 2025.
8. In addition to National Reporting, one year in advance of the CAMI Meeting, Secretariat requests the SFPs to provide a short update on the status of the species as well as trends and developments regarding species' conservation over the past five years to inform future discussions. These reports are used to inform the development of the new POW.

Part II Proposed procedural arrangements for the Range-Wide Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard

A. Focal Points for the Persian Leopard

9. The Secretariat suggests that the CMS National Focal Points (NFPs) from the Persian Leopard Range States serve as the NFPs for the Persian Leopard, unless delegated by the NFP and/or decided otherwise by the Range States Meeting. Out of the countries officially represented at the meeting, Azerbaijan and Turkey are currently not Parties to CMS and are kindly requested to nominate a government focal point. The Meeting is requested to review the table below, provide missing information, amend it, if necessary and adopt the list of national focal points.

Proposed Focal Points for the Persian Leopard

Persian Leopard Range State (in accordance with UNEP/CMS/PL-RS1/Inf.2/Rev.1)	First Name	Last Name	CMS Status	Position/Institution
Afghanistan	TBD	TBD	Party	National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA)
Armenia	Mr. Sevak	Baloyan (TBC)	Party	Head of the Bioresources permitting division, Department for licenses, permits, and compliances, Ministry of Environment
Azerbaijan	TBD	TBD	Non-Party	
Georgia	Ms. Salome	Nozadze (TBC)	Party	Chief Specialist Department of Biodiversity and Forestry, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources
Iran	Mr. Mohsen	Esperi (TBC)	Party	Director General for International Environmental and Sustainable Development Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Iraq	Mr. Arif Shamkhi	Jaber	Party	Senior Biologist, Ministry of Environment
Kazakhstan	Mr. Andrei	Kim	Party	Deputy Chairman, Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources
Pakistan	Mr. Muhammad Samar	Hussain Khan	Party	Conservator Wildlife, Ministry of Climate Change
Russia	TBD	TBD	Non-Party	
Turkey	Mr. Burak	Tatar	Non-Party	Senior expert, Department of Wildlife Management
Turkmenistan	Mr. Mergen	Yusupov (TBC)	Party	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection
Uzbekistan	Mr. Khalilulla	Sherimbetov (TBC)	Party	Head of Protected Areas Department, State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection

10. The Meeting is invited to identify an expert to serve as a Species Focal Point for the Persian Leopard within CAMI.

B. Meetings of the Range States

11. The Draft Range-Wide Strategy for the Persian Leopard currently runs for the period 2023-2032. In line with the CAMI POW revision cycle, the CMS Secretariat recommends that the Persian Leopard Range States meet in 2032 to review the implementation of and update the strategy accordingly.

C. Reporting on Strategy Implementation

12. The Secretariat recommends that the reporting on the implementation of the Range-Wide Conservation Strategy for the Persian Leopard follows the CAMI cycles. The first report would then be due in 2031. Subject to available resources, the Secretariat will analyze these reports and organize a meeting of the Range States.

The Range States are requested to take a decision on:

- List of National Focal Points for the Persian Leopard
- Species Focal Point for the Persian Leopard in the CAMI framework
- Meetings of Range States (e.g. proposed meeting to review the implementation and revise the strategy, if necessary, in 2032)
- Reporting cycle for the Strategy (e.g. first report due in 2031).