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MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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**IUCN SAVE OUR SPECIES:  
AFRICAN WILDLIFE AND CENTRAL ASIA INITIATIVES**

*((Prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature))*

Summary:

An overview of projects funded by IUCN Save Our Species and their contributions to the strategic objectives of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, in particular, the implementation of the CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (COP13/Doc. 26.3.1) and the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (COP13/Doc. 26.3.5).

# IUCN Save Our Species: African Wildlife and Central Asia initiatives

An overview of projects funded by IUCN Save Our Species and their contributions to the strategic objectives of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

## IUCN Save Our Species<sup>1</sup>

IUCN Save Our Species is a grant-making mechanism set up to ensure the long-term survival of threatened species, their habitats, and the people who depend on them.

IUCN Save Our Species awards grants to civil society organisations that perform concrete conservation actions on the ground, including:

- Addressing and reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict, wildlife poaching and trafficking;
- Enhancing law enforcement capacity;
- Empowering communities through the co-creation of sustainable and innovative livelihood solutions where conservation is a central value.

## IUCN Save Our Species: African Wildlife initiative<sup>2</sup>

The IUCN Save Our Species African Wildlife initiative, funded by the European Union, is aligned with the EU “Larger than Elephants” strategic approach to wildlife conservation in Africa. The initiative aims to halt the decline of Africa’s large carnivores. This includes the lion (*Panther leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*) and smaller carnivores, which are increasingly threatened by poaching, habitat fragmentation and human encroachment on wild habitats. The initiative also contributes to ensuring the long-term survival of prey species, including members of the giraffe, equid and bovid families.

Below are some examples of how the IUCN Save Our Species African Wildlife initiative contributes to the implementation of CMS decisions and recommendations.

### 1. “Reducing human-carnivore conflict, empowering communities and informing conservation planning in Tanzania’s Ruaha landscape”<sup>3</sup>

- The project contributes to the goal of the 2017 CMS Conference: “Their Future is Our Future – Sustainable Development for Wildlife & People”, which is to stress the link between Sustainable Development Goals and wildlife presence. The project has the purpose to **recognise the global value of its target species** and translates that into local value, particularly through the community camera-trapping. Presence of **wildlife directly generates benefits**, which will markedly improve local healthcare and education, and will therefore help achieve the SDGs directly through the conservation of wildlife.
- The project is aligned with the CITES/CMS Communiqué from the 2016 African Lion Range State Meeting<sup>4</sup>, which stated that the 28 Range States ‘*Agree that community-based natural resource management, the creation of incentives for local communities to engage in lion conservation, the sharing of conservation benefits and the establishment of mitigation measures can increase the lion range and are essential to the conservation success of lions*’. The project’s community camera-trapping **provides**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.saveourspecies.org/>. Contact us at [SaveOurSpecies@iucn.org](mailto:SaveOurSpecies@iucn.org), or by phone at +41 22 999 0000

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.saveourspecies.org/our-work/sos-african-wildlife>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.saveourspecies.org/projects/cats/reducing-human-carnivore-conflict-empowering-communities-and-informing-conservation>

<sup>4</sup> [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/news/pr/2016/African\\_Lion\\_Meeting\\_Outcomes.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/news/pr/2016/African_Lion_Meeting_Outcomes.pdf)

**a clear incentive** for locals to engage in wildlife conservation, to **ensure that locals share conservation benefits**, and **help to design and implement activities**. In addition, **mitigation measures** (predator-proofing of bomas) help reduce conflict.

2. ***“Keeping Kafue in KAZA: Developing processes and pathways for carnivore connectivity between the Greater Kafue Ecosystem and the Chobe-Linyanti Ecosystem”***<sup>5</sup>

The project is closely aligned with many of the **recommendations of the recently established Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative**, which is an umbrella initiative that targets four iconic African carnivore species: the African Lion, Cheetah, Leopard and African Wild Dog. Specific points of the strategies that the project will address:

- **CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHEETAH (*Acinonyx jubatus*) AND AFRICAN WILD DOG (*Lycaon pictus*)** (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.3.1.2)

**12.BB Parties are requested to:**

c) Promote **wildlife-based income** generation mechanisms that benefit both people and wildlife.

g) **Enforce protection within protected areas** and maintain **buffer zones** and **connectivity** outside, in order to secure the large landscapes necessary for Cheetah and African Wild Dog conservation.

i) Consider **land zoning options** to maintain and restore important areas for Cheetah and African Wild Dog conservation outside protected areas.

k) **Collaborate and exchange best conservation practices** regarding the preservation and restoration of African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) populations, and cooperate with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other interested organizations in taking actions at the national and regional level, in particular with regard to: **habitat conservation**; the establishment of **ecological corridors** to address habitat fragmentation; the management of **infectious diseases**; the restoration of prey-basis; **human-wildlife conflicts**; and **trade, including trade in captive bred specimens**.

3. ***“Conserving Northern Tanzania’s Large Carnivores via a Community-driven Approach”***<sup>6</sup>

- The project highlights the rapid decline of lion populations in East Africa, and notes that the 2016 CITES-CMS Lion Range States Meeting targeted the region as a high conservation priority. Chief among the conclusions of this meeting were the necessity to **reduce human-lion conflict and to involve local communities**. These are the two primary themes of the project, along with increasing the numbers of lions (and other large carnivores) in critical landscapes of northern Tanzania.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.saveourspecies.org/projects/cats/keeping-kafue-kaza-developing-processes-and-pathways-carnivore-connectivity-between>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.saveourspecies.org/projects/cats/conserving-northern-tanzanias-large-carnivores-community-driven-approach>

#### 4. “Conservation of the Critically Endangered African wild ass (*Equus africanus*) and the Endangered Grevy’s zebra (*Equus grevyi*) in Ethiopia”<sup>7</sup>

- The project directly contributes to the implementation of the recommendations made in the **CMS 1st African Wild Ass Range States Meeting 2017 and the CMS 2018 African wild ass Roadmap**:
  - 1) Improve protection of the African wild ass** by increasing the number of community scouts and improving their capacity;
  - 2) Engage local communities in conservation of the African wild ass** by introducing the wildlife guardian model, launching awareness programs, and introducing alternative livelihoods;
  - 3) Reduce competition with livestock for forage and water** by determining habitat and dietary overlap between African wild ass and livestock and identifying management areas that provide suitable habitat year round;
  - 4) Improve protected area coverage and capability by demarcating and gazetted protected areas and providing infrastructure (scout posts).**

In addition to the projects highlighted above, the IUCN Save Our Species African Wildlife initiative supports a number of other projects that contribute in one way or another to the implementation of CMS decisions and recommendations. This includes, among others: i) the monitoring of lions in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape<sup>8</sup>, ii) the development of a community game guards programme to support the recovery of populations of lion, leopard, cheetah, African wild dog, hyena, zebra, giraffe, elephant and the full suite of bovid species in the Luengue-Luiana National Park in Angola<sup>9</sup>, and iii) the translocation of giraffe in Niger, to improve their conservation status and expand the range of the last West African giraffe population<sup>10</sup>.

### IUCN Save Our Species: Central Asia initiative<sup>11</sup>

In Central Asia, SOS IUCN Save Our Species aims to support implementation of the CAMI Programme of Work, and currently focuses on two species (Goitered Gazelle and Snow Leopard), enabling projects in both high-mountain and lowland semi-desert ecosystems.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.saveourspecies.org/projects/ungulates/conservation-critically-endangered-african-wild-ass-and-endangered-grevys-zebra>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.saveourspecies.org/projects/cats/supporting-conservation-west-african-lions-w-national-park-niger>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.saveourspecies.org/projects/cats/engaging-communities-business-and-conservation-partners-restore-threatened-carnivore>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.saveourspecies.org/projects/ungulates/saving-west-africas-last-giraffe-increasing-conservation-management-and-range>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.saveourspecies.org/our-work/sos-central-asia>

**1. “Ensuring goitered gazelle migrations and population development in part of the recently established 1 million hectares eco-corridor Altyn-Emel – Ile-Balhash, Kazakhstan”**

This project addresses the following points of the CAMI PoW:

- 1.1.1. Strengthen the capacity of rangers;
- 1.1.3. Promote regular and sound monitoring of species;
- 1.3.2. Increase public awareness on barriers to migration.

**2. “Creating Co-managed Protected Areas and Conservation-Linked Livelihood Opportunities to Save Snow Leopards and their Prey Species in Kyrgyzstan”**

This project addresses the following points of the CAMI PoW:

- 1.1.1. Strengthen the capacity of rangers
- 1.1.5. Promote the use of new technologies, methods and tools for enforcement
- 1.1.8. Secure public support for addressing illegal hunting and trade
- 1.5. Human needs/community engagement in conservation.
  - 1.5.1. Promote sustainable livelihood schemes linked to conservation
  - 1.5.3. Establish (and share best practice of) community based insurance schemes
  - 1.5.6. Promote and support the use of local knowledge and skills, e.g. with community-based management plans
- 2.1.1. Activities in the Inner Tien Shan Snow Leopard Landscape are aligned with those specified in the GSLEP.

**3. “Facilitating habitat connectivity and access to key resources for Goitered Gazelle populations in southern Kazakhstan”**

This project addresses the following points of the CAMI PoW:

- 1.4. Good governance of natural resource management/policy and legislation;
  - 1.6.3. Develop appropriate monitoring indicators;
- 1.7. Transboundary cooperation;
  - 1.7.3. Build on and enhance scientific and working level collaboration
- 2.3.14. Develop sub-regional programme for conservation and restoration of the species;
  - 2.3.15. Assess impact of linear infrastructure on Goitered Gazelles and develop and implement mitigation measures.

**4. “Advocacy for the conservation of goitered gazelles among pupils of schools in the Mangistau region of Kazakhstan”**

This project addresses the following points of the CAMI PoW:

- 1.5. Human needs/community engagement in conservation;
  - 1.5.4. Provide culturally and species appropriate activities for teachers;
  - 1.5.15. Engage with and encourage investment from additional NGOs and businesses, especially local large industries (e.g. oil, gas, mining).

**5. “Preservation of Snow Leopard as a Living Symbol of Megalopolis of Almaty and Kazakhstan”**

This project addresses the following points of the CAMI PoW:

- 1.5. Human needs/community engagement in conservation;
  - 1.5.4. Provide culturally and species appropriate activities for teachers using current examples such as establishing Wildlife Clubs and celebrating species days;
  - 1.5.6. Promote and support the use of local knowledge and skills, e.g. with community based management plans (engagement with strategy definition), scientific research (participatory approaches), reporting outcomes with communities in a suitable language and format;
  - 1.6.1. Conduct gap analysis based on scientific evidence across species to understand the limitations and explain those limitations, identify key questions and construct appropriate hypotheses necessary to permit robust knowledge advancement and provide meaningful and unequivocal information to stakeholders;
  - 1.6.4. Ensure integration and application of data and findings gathered from scientific research into conservation management planning.

**6. “Plains to Peaks: Connecting Arid Steppe and Mountain Ecosystems in Southeast Kazakhstan for Goitered Gazelle Conservation”**

This project addresses the following points of the CAMI PoW:

- 1.1. Illegal hunting and trade;
  - 1.1.5. Promote the use of new technologies, methods and tools for enforcement (use of SMART, etc);
  - 1.2.8 Where possible, minimize grazing on migration routes by livestock
  - 1.6.5. Undertake research to increase understanding of landscape permeability as a function of socio-economic change, environmental change, and protected area configuration.

**7. “Sustaining Indigenous Communities in Snow Leopard Conservation”**

This project contributes to the following points of the CAMI PoW:

- 1.5. Human needs/community engagement in conservation.
  - 1.5.4. Provide culturally and species appropriate activities for teachers
  - 1.5.5. Promote and support the use of local knowledge and skills
  - 1.5.9. Engage community conservationists with direct involvement in conservation initiatives, such as community monitoring or local wildlife champions