

Goitered gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa* *Guldenstaedt, 1780. in Uzbekistan*

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In Uzbekistan Goitered gazelle occur on the Ustyurt plateau and surrounding territories (north of the country), in the Kyzyl Kum desert (central part of the country) and desert areas of the Surkhandarya region (southern part of the country).

The following populations of Goitered gazelles were identified.

Ustyurt population. Ustyurt population occupies the Uzbek part of Ustyurt plateau and adjacent to the plateau depressions Kazakhlyshor and Sarykamysch. Goitered gazelles are found in the central part of the plateau - in the territory to the southwest and northwest of the solonchak Barsakelmes, on the Karabaur height. The highest density of gazelles was found in the Sarykamysch depression (around the Lake Sarykamysch), as well as in the southwestern Ustyurt (the depressions Assake-Audan and “The Dry Lake”, natural boundaries Uzunkui, Kulantakyr, and the plain over the Kulantakyr chink). This area borders with Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. The total number of gazelles on the Ustyurt plateau and surrounding territories is 1,400 individuals (Marmazinskaya et al, 2016). There is one protected area in this territory (The Saygachiy Complex Landscape Sanctuary) and 4 IBA (The Important Bird Areas of Uzbekistan (IBA), 2008). In the next two years, the creation of the South Ustyurt Nature Reserve is planned. Its territory will be adjacent to the Kaplankyr Nature Reserve and two Nature Sanctuaries (Sarykamysch and Shasenem) (Turkmenistan). In the future, the creation of a transboundary protected area can be considered.

Northern Kyzyl Kum population. Gazelles inhabit sands to the southeast from the Aral Sea in the area of the old beds of Zhanadarya and Akchadarya rivers; the surroundings of the lakes Zholdyrbas, Akpetki; Beltau's height, sands Taskuduk and Saksaulnaya dacha; the southern coast of the Aral Sea - Aralkum sands. In the north-east, this part of the range borders with Kazakhstan. According to expert opinion, at present, the number of gazelles in Northern Kyzylkum is more than 500 individuals (Gritsyna et al, 2016; Marmazinskaya, Gritsyna, 2017). There are two IBA in this territory (The IBA of Uzbekistan, 2008). In the next two years, it is planned to create a Nature Sanctuary “System of Lakes “Sudochoye””, which will include large lakes in the southern Aral Sea region, including Zholdyrbas and Akpetki (now there are IBA) around which gazelles are concentrated.

Central Kyzyl Kum population (the largest). Gazelles occur in the following places: Bazaubay, Akboget, Kokayaz, Kakpatas, Tokhtatu, Uzunkuduk, New Ayukazgan sand massifs; Karakata, Ayakagitma and Mingbulak depressions; foothills and wide gorges of the Bukantau, Tamdytau, Kazakhtau, Auminzatau and Kuldzhuktau mountains, as well as the deserts surrounding them. In the north and east, this part of the range borders with Kazakhstan. The Central Kyzyl Kum population is very dispersed, its number about 3000-5000 individuals (Marmazinskaya, Gritsyna, 2017). In the Central part of Kyzylkum, there are no strictly Protected Areas, there are 6 IBA (The IBA of Uzbekistan, 2008). In Uzbekistan, IBAs do not have the status of PA.

South West Kyzylkum population. In this part of Kyzyl Kum, several habitats of gazelles have been identified. *Amudarya site* is extended along the Amu Darya River valley, in the west it is limited by the floodplain of the Amu Darya and at the same time the border with Turkmenistan. *The Kimirekkum sand massif* in the southwest borders with Turkmenistan, so a smaller part of the Kimirekkum sand massif is located in Turkmenistan. The main concentration of gazelles is in the areas Kyzylrvat, Uchkir, Dayathatyn. *Sundukli* sands are located to the southeast from the previous sites. The main concentration of gazelles is confined to the vicinity of the reservoir Dengizkul. Goitered gazelle is also specified for the Khoja Davlet site, the vicinity of Lake Achinskoye and the Talimarjan reservoir. In the Sundukli, in addition to the above sections, it is also possible to include the following areas where the gazelle is found: Sichankul and Alan spills. *The Sundukli section* is divided by the Turkmen border into almost two equal parts. The total number of South West Kyzyl Kum population is 500-600 gazelles. In the South-Western Kyzyl Kum there are two PAs (Dengizkul Wildlife Sanctuary and Kyzylkum Nature Reserve) and 4 IBA (Soldatova, Salimov, 1997; Mitropolskiy et al., 2004; The IBAs of Uzbekistan, 2008; Marmazinskaya, 2018).

Several habitats of gazelle have been identified for **the Karshi-Karnabchul massif**. Several PAs are located in this massif: Ecocenter Dzheyran; Wildlife Sanctuaries (Karnabchul, Mubarek and Drofinniy). The total number of gazelles in this territory is 1400-1700, including the semi-free population of the Ecocenter Dzheyran (923 individuals) (Data of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection). The Karshi-Karnabchul massif does not adjoin to the state borders. There are 3 IBA on this territory.

Most of the subpopulations and groupings in the northern, central and southwestern parts of the Kyzyl Kum desert are separated by asphalt roads with high traffic level, railways, system of irrigation canals, wetlands, agricultural fields and oases (Marmazinskaya, 2018).

South Kyzyl Kum population. The territory is located in the southern part of the Kyzyl Kum desert on the northern coast of the Lake Aydarkul and surrounding areas. The total number is about 100 gazelles. There are two IBA.

North-East Karakum population . Uzbek part of the Karakum desert (the vicinity of the Khorezm fish farm and adjacent lakes surrounded by desert). Borders on Turkmenistan in the West. The total number is about 30 individuals. There is one IBA (The IBA of Uzbekistan, 2008; Marmazinskaya, 2018).

Surkhandarya population. There are 5 isolated gazelle groupings in this region: in the southeast (the foothills of the Tuyantau ridge - near the border with Tajikistan); in the north-east (foothills of northern Babatag ridge, also near the border with Tajikistan); in the north-west (the vicinity of Derbent); in the south-west there are two groups, divided by the Kelif-Sherabad ridge - the habitat of the southern part of the Kugitang-Kelif-Sherabad piedmont plain adjoins the border with

Turkmenistan. Surkhandarya population currently does not exceed 30-50 individuals (Holikov, Mamarazhabov, 2016; Normatov, 2016; Marmazinskaya, 2018).

Thus, 7,000-9,500 Goitered gazelles currently occur on the territory of Uzbekistan, but it is necessary to conduct more detailed studies in many habitats.

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