

First Range State Meeting for the Persian Leopard

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DRAFT RANGE-WIDE STRATEGY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE PERSIAN LEOPARD

Summary: The Draft Range-Wide Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard was prepared for the CMS Secretariat by a group of experts, led by the IUCN Cat Specialist Group co-chairs. This work was funded in the framework of the cooperation between the CMS Secretariat and the International Academy for Nature Conservation of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN INA) by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official opinions of the involved institutions.

For background information about the methodology used to create the document, please refer to [UNEP/CMS/CAMI/RS-PL1/Inf.1/Rev.1](#). For the Overview Report on the Conservation Status of The Persian Leopard, please refer to [UNEP/CMS/CAMI/RS-PL1/Inf.2/Rev.1](#). A revision of this document was issued to correct the formatting.

Action requested: Review, amend, as necessary, and adopt the strategy.

List of abbreviations

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Full title</i>
BfN INA	International Academy for Nature Conservation of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
CAMI	Central Asian Mammals Initiative (of CMS)
Cat SG	IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (of the United Nations)
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (of the United Nations)
GO	Governmental organisation
EAZA	European Association of Zoos and Aquaria
EEP	EAZA Ex-situ Breeding Programme
IGO	Inter-governmental organisation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PA	Protected Area
PoW	Programme of Work (here of CMS CAMI)
SSC	Species Survival Commission (of IUCN)

1. Introduction

The Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its Programme of Work (POW) were adopted by the CMS Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting (COP11) in 2014 by Resolution 11.24 to enhance the conservation of Central Asian migratory mammals. CMS COP13 revised the POW (Resolution 11.24 (Rev. COP13) for the period 2021-2026 by, *inter alia*, adding the Persian Leopard to the Initiative, as proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Activity 19.1 of the POW 2021-2026, calls upon the CMS Secretariat and Range States to: *Develop a range-wide strategy for the conservation of the Persian Leopard (inclusive of other non-CAMI Range States, i.e., Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraq and Turkey) and update national strategies and conservation action plans.* The activity was given a high priority by the CAMI Range States.

The Draft Conservation Strategy was developed in a series of online workshops organized by the IUCN SSC Cat SG co-chairs, and attended by experts from all Persian Leopard Range States and international experts (see [UNEP/CMS/CAMI/RS-PL1/Inf.1/Rev.1](#) for details). In the course of this work, commissioned by the CMS Secretariat and BfN INA, information on the status of the Persian Leopard populations and their conservation was compiled to inform the drafting process. This information is summarized in the Overview Report on the Conservation Status of the Persian Leopard ([UNEP/CMS/CAMI/RS-PL1/Inf.2/Rev.1](#)).

During the online workshops, the participating experts formulated a Vision and a Goal for the Draft Conservation Strategy, conducted a threat analysis, developed objectives, corresponding results and activities needed to achieve the results. The experts prioritized the proposed activities according to their respective level of importance for each Range State ([UNEP/CMS/CAMI/RS-PL1/Inf.1/Rev.1](#), Appendix IV). Average scores for each activity across the Range States are included in the draft strategy.

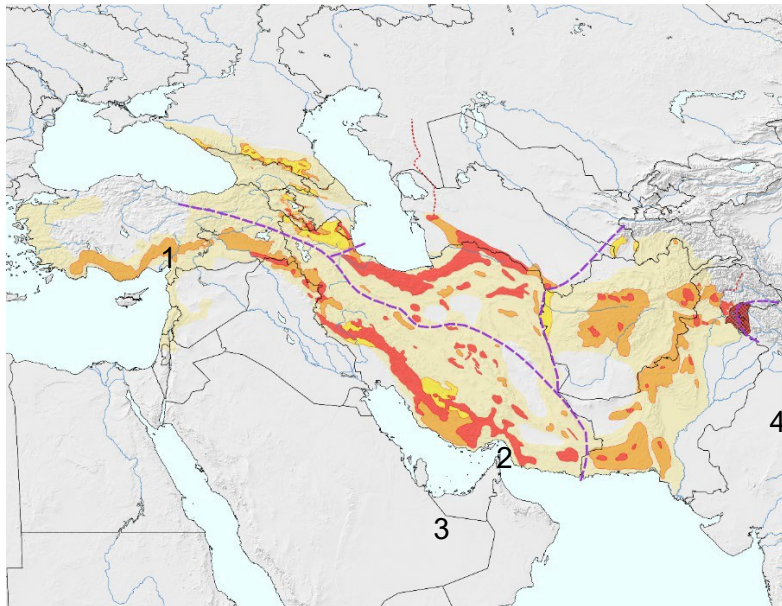


Figure 1. Distribution of the Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*) in past and present times according to IUCN Red List distribution categories: red, extant; orange, possibly extant; yellow, possibly extinct; light yellow, extinct. Delineation of the regions and metapopulations: 1 = Caucasus (including territories of: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, Turkey), 2 = Alborz-Kopet Dagh (Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), 3 = Zagros Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Turkey) 4 = eastern range (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan).

2. Draft Range-Wide Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard (2023- 2032)

Vision: Viable populations of Persian Leopard range across transboundary landscapes in healthy ecosystems, coexisting with and valued by people.

Goal: To ensure coordinated action for the conservation of the Persian Leopard, its key wild prey species and habitats across its historic range by strengthening coordination and cross-border cooperation, sustainable use of natural resources and coexistence with people.

Range States: AF = Afghanistan, AM = Armenia, AZ = Azerbaijan, GE = Georgia, IR = Iran, IQ = Iraq, KZ = Kazakhstan, PK = Pakistan, RU = the Russian Federation, TR = Turkey, TM = Turkmenistan, UZ = Uzbekistan.

Objectives support reaching the Goal and directly address important Threats and Drivers; **Results** are the concrete achievements or direct outcomes needed to reach every Objective. Results are the direct outcome of the implementation of a Logical Framework (LogFrame) and should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound); **Activities** = **Actions** to achieve each Result, including a **Timeline**, **Actor**, **Indicator** and a rough **Budget**.

Result	Activity	Actor	Indicator	Timeline	Budget	CAMI POW	Priority ¹
Theme 1. Conservation and sustainable management of the Persian Leopard and key wild prey species.							
Objective 1. To increase the viability of the Persian Leopard and key wild prey populations across the range and ensure their recovery in priority areas.							
Result 1.1. Priority areas including cross border habitats are identified, properly managed and protected to secure the existence of viable populations, safe movements and residence of Persian Leopard individuals by 2028 (see Result 5.1. & 5.2)	Activity 1.1.1. Review recent information and available data on habitat and Persian Leopard occurrence in the Range States and identify priority areas, research and conservation needs to secure viable Persian Leopard populations in these priority areas.	NGOs, research and GOs, invited experts and local/regional stakeholders	Report and map of priority Persian Leopard habitats is compiled	2025	10.000 USD per country	1.3, 19.2, 19.5	2.58
	Activity 1.1.2. Organise workshops to develop best-practice management guides for priority areas, and disseminate to responsible authorities and local/regional stakeholders to ensure implementation and policy uptake (see Activity 1.1.4)	NGOs, GOs, experts and local/regional stakeholders	Workshop performed, reports /road map developed, area-specific priority conservation measures identified, and relevant institutions are informed	2025	TBD		1.96
	Activity 1.1.3. Develop and enhance guidance on national and regional/cross-border protected areas for identifying new		Workshop took place, national and regional/cross border	2028	TBD by organisations		2.17

¹ Average of the priority scores assigned to the Activities for each Persian Leopard Range State by the experts participating in the drafting of the strategy (see UNEP/CMS/CAMI/RS-PL1/Inf.1/Rev.1 for details), with the following levels of priority: 1- low; 2-medium; 3-high).

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority¹</i>
	protected areas and wildlife corridors in regard to Persian Leopard conservation needs in a workshop as in A. 1.1.2 (see Activity 5.2.1)		protected area guidelines for including Persian leopard considerations are developed and approved				
	Activity 1.1.4. Promote the inclusion of protected areas for the Persian Leopard and conservation needs for the species in national policies (see Activity 1.1.2)		Persian Leopard protected areas and Persian Leopard conservation is included in national policies	2030	TBD		2.04
	Activity 1.1.5. Regularly report on status of the identified cross-border priority areas including state of habitats, threats, management effectiveness and protection status.	Range States (GOs), experts, NGOs	Regular reporting on transboundary priority areas takes place	2028	TBD		2.58
Result 1.2. Viable and interconnected (sub) populations of Persian Leopard exist in priority areas of at least one region/ metapopulation by 2030 (see Result 5.3 & 11.3)	Activity 1.2.1. Promote standardised and methodologically advanced approaches to monitor Persian Leopard population viability and connectivity (camera-trapping, genetic analysis, disease screening etc.) based on the monitoring standards defined under Activity 3.3.1 & 3.3.2	NGOs, scientific and research organisations, PA personnel, wildlife conservation authorities and local communities	The programme is developed and approved. Field staff is trained, and the programme is initiated and running	2028	TBD	19.7, 19.8	2.63
	Activity 1.2.2. Conduct surveys and regular monitoring (applying the guidelines developed under Activity 3.3.1) in priority Persian Leopard areas (see Activity 5.1.2)	NGOs, GOs, experts and local/regional stakeholders	Monitoring and survey report produced	2032	TBD	19.7	2.58
	Activity 1.2.3 Conduct an international technical workshop to identify key viable and interconnected subpopulations	IUCN, CMS, GOs, experts	Workshop took place, map on key viable and interconnected subpopulations is available	2028	TBD	19.7	2.58
	Activity 1.2.3. Establish a programme for caretakers and rangers in at least one	NGOs, GOs, PA personnel, local communities and	Programme is established and operating	2028	TBD	19.6, 19.7	2.25

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority₁</i>
	region/metapopulation ² to monitor and protect Persian Leopard and habitats (see Activity 1.2.2)	other local/regional stakeholders					
	Activity 1.2.4. Develop and implement recommendations to achieve and/or conserve viable and interconnected (sub)populations of Persian Leopard in priority areas for at least one region/metapopulation ¹		Report with recommendations to achieve and/or conserve viable and interconnected Persian Leopard (sub)populations in priority areas and report on implementation of these recommendations are available.	2030	TBD	19.2, 19.4, 19.5	2.13
	Activity 1.2.5. Conduct national legislation gap analyses (e.g. legislation on conservation, hunting, etc.) with regard to the conservation of Persian Leopard and other CAMI species sharing the same habitat or similar threats and promote updates of legislation as needed with national institutions (parliament, government; see Objective 10)	NGOs, governmental agencies, and experts	Laws, bylaws and related regulations adapted according to gap analysis report.	2024	TBD	2.1, 5.14, 5.15	1.83
	Activity 1.2.6. Secure resources to enforce the (updated) legislation for Persian Leopard protection	National authorities, experts, conservation NGOs	Reduced number of violations of the laws.	2028	TBD	2.2, 19.6	1.92
Result 1.3. Sufficient and stable/expanding interconnected populations of key wild prey species exist in Persian Leopard priority areas of at least two	Activity 1.3.1. Establish a programme for caretakers and rangers in at least two regions/metapopulations to monitor and protect key wild prey species and habitats.	NGOs, GOs, PA personnel, local communities and other local/regional stakeholders.	Programme is operating.	2028	TBD	2.2, 7.2, 19.6, 19.7	1.92

² See Figure 1 for the delineation of the metapopulations.

Result	Activity	Actor	Indicator	Timeline	Budget	CAMI POW	Priority ¹
regions/ metapopulations by 2028.	Activity 1.3.2. Assess the status and conservation needs of key wild prey populations to secure viable prey populations in Persian Leopard priority areas.	NGOs, GOs, scientific and research institutions and protected area personnel	Report on the status of key wild prey populations in Persian Leopard priority areas.	2028	TBD		2.67
	Activity 1.3.3. Develop and apply reintroduction and/or recovery programmes for Persian Leopard prey, where necessary.		State-specific recommendations/ work plan for reintroduction and recovery is published	2030	TBD		2.33
Objective 2. To agree on and implement an effectual and sustainable wildlife management system within and outside PAs to assure the long-term existence of viable Persian Leopard and key wild prey populations in priority areas.							
Result 2.1. The key PAs have developed and implemented effective management plans that ensure (1) law enforcement for protected species, (2) sustainable wildlife management, and (3) sustainable use of the area by people, where allowed (grazing livestock, harvesting firewood, timber, etc.) by 2030 (see Result 5.2)	Activity 2.1.1. Develop and implement management plans for priority protected areas identified in Activity 1.1.1.	NGOs, GOs, scientific institutions and PA management	Management plans are developed, approved and their implementation is initiated.	2030	TBD	2.4, 5.8, 19.2	2.17
	Activity 2.1.2. Assess the effectiveness of implementation of the management plans of key protected areas through standardised tools ³ (e.g. METT) and revise management plans accordingly (see Activity 5.2.2).	NGOs, GOs and PA management	Report on evaluations using METT and/or other standardised tools is available and revised management plans of priority areas are developed and implemented	Every 3 years	TBD		2.04
Result 2.2. Land-use plans have been developed and implemented in key	Activity 2.2.1. Develop and implement sustainable land-use plans for the identified priority areas (see Activity 1.1.1) and other conservation measures outside	NGOs, GOs, land owners, PA management, local communities,	Sustainable land-use plans are developed and approved, and their implementation is	2030	TBD	19.2, 19.4	2.67

³ Standardized tool(s) refers to a collection of data (includes registration of time and location over time) that allows for scientific assessment of the interventions, and ultimately it allows to evaluate the effectiveness of different interventions/techniques.

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority¹</i>
areas outside and between PAs identified as the priority areas (see R 1.1) by 2031 aiming to maintain healthy wild ungulate and Persian Leopard populations in these multi-use lands (see Result 5.1).	and between protected areas.	local stakeholders	initiated.				
	Activity 2.2.2. Assess the implementation of sustainable land-use plans in priority areas regarding wildlife conservation, and revise/update these plans, as needed.	NGOs, GOs and experts (on-the-ground)	Evaluation reports on the land-use plans are produced and plans for priority areas are revised and implemented.	2031	TBD		1.88
Objective 3. To perform initial surveys, where needed and implement a reliable monitoring system for Persian Leopard and key wild prey species within and outside PAs to guide conservation measures							
Result 3.1. Potential Persian Leopard habitats are surveyed ⁴ for Persian Leopard and key wild prey presence and status by reliable methods and in collaboration with stakeholders in all Persian Leopard Range States by 2028 (see Result 5.1)	Activity 3.1.1. Secure resources/capacities necessary to conduct surveys and to map Persian Leopard records and key wild prey species in accordance with the results of Activity 1.2.1 (see Activity 9.4.1 & 9.4.2)	NGOs, scientific and research organisations, PA personnel and local communities	Teams implementing Persian Leopard and key wild prey species surveys are fully equipped and trained	2025	TBD	19.2, 19.5, 19.6, 19.7	2.83
	Activity 3.1.2. Conduct surveys of identified potential Persian Leopard habitat (according to the results of Activity 1.2.1. & 5.1.2.) in collaboration with stakeholders in identified priority areas in order to map Persian Leopard and key wild prey occurrence.		Report on all surveyed potential Persian Leopard habitats, Persian Leopard habitats identified and Leopard and key wild prey species occurrence mapped.	2028	TBD		2.75
Result 3.2. All core Persian Leopard habitats are surveyed to identify the status and main threats to Persian Leopard and its key wild prey and, wherever possible, monitored by 2028.	Activity 3.2.1. Identify the status and main threats to Persian Leopard and their key wild prey in the surveyed habitats under Activity 3.1.2. taking into account also the outcomes of Activity 1.2.2	NGOs, scientific and research organisations, PA personnel and local communities	Report on the status and threats to Persian Leopard and its key wild prey is published	2028	TBD	19.2, 19.5, 19.7	2.67
	Activity 3.2.2. Monitor priority areas regularly in regard to the status of the Persian Leopard and its key wild prey in accordance with Activity 1.2.2, applying		Regular reports on the status and threats to Persian Leopard and its key wild prey are	2028	TBD		19.7

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority¹</i>
	the guidelines developed under Activity 3.3.1		published and presented				
Result 3.3. Methodologies of population monitoring are standardised ⁵ , adopted and implemented within and among the Range States by 2028.	Activity 3.3.1. Produce guidelines/manuals describing standard practices and methods of monitoring in national languages.	NGOs, scientific research organisations, experts	The guidelines/manual specifying monitoring methodologies and their applications for each Range State and area is produced, translated into national language(s), presented and approved.	2025	TBD	19.7, 19.8	2.42
	Activity 3.3.2. Adopt and implement the standardised guidelines/manual for monitoring Persian Leopard and key wild prey (see Activities 1.2.1, 3.2.2 & 3.3.1) by dedicated monitoring teams	NGOs, and scientific research organisations	Training of monitoring teams conducted and reported, report on equipment and skills of monitoring teams, report on monitoring Persian Leopard and their key wild prey species is produced	2028	TBD		2.42
Result 3.4. A Persian Leopard database is established to share Persian Leopard and key wild prey data for in-State and transboundary/international cooperation in conservation by 2028	Activity 3.4.1. Develop and adopt guidelines for sharing and structuring data on Persian Leopard and key wild prey species nationally and between Persian Leopard Range States.	NGOs, GOs, and research organisations	Guidelines for sharing and structuring data are developed and available in all Range State national languages and adopted by all Range States.	2025	TBD	19.7, 19.8	2.33
	Activity 3.4.2. Develop regional databases of Persian Leopard records and key wild prey species, especially in transboundary areas, aimed to help identify Persian Leopard individuals and their movements.		The databases are established and functioning.	2026	TBD	19.2, 19.7, 19.8	2.46

⁵ Means that the methodology is designed in a way that it can be used for science and conservation.

Result	Activity	Actor	Indicator	Timeline	Budget	CAMI POW	Priority ¹
	Activity 3.4.3. Make the databases accessible, successfully used, and regularly updated by all Range States.		The databases are accessible and regularly used by all Persian Leopard Range States, report on users training to identify individual Persian Leopard by animal recognition software.	2028	TBD	19.8, 19.9	1.83
Result 3.5. Standardised National/Regional Persian Leopard Status reports are available for all Persian Leopard Range States every four years based on the data entered into databases (see Result 3.4).	Activity 3.5.1. Develop standardised national/regional Persian Leopard status reports, e.g., based on the data entered into the databases (see Activity 3.4.1 & 3.4.3)	NGOs, GOs, and research organisations	National/Regional Persian Leopard status reports are available every 4 years.	Every 4 years	TBD	19.7, 19.9	1.83
Objective 4. To establish and maintain an <i>ex situ</i> population of the Persian Leopard including institutions in all Range States, in order to secure a genetic backup and a source population for future <i>in situ</i> needs							
Result 4.1. Each Persian Leopard Range State has access to a properly equipped Rescue Centre ⁶ with qualified staff (including veterinarians and caretaker) allowing to (temporarily) host injured, orphaned or confiscated Persian	Activity 4.1.1. Conduct a feasibility study of rescue centres across the Persian Leopard range including all Range States: Make an inventory of facilities able to hold Persian Leopards in each Range State, and identify possible rescue centres including a possibility of shared (international centres).	Consultant in cooperation with national authorities, national/international zoo experts and NGOs, CMS and CITES	Feasibility study finished and shared.	2023	20.000 USD		1.94
	Activity 4.1.2. Establish and equip	Identified zoos/wildlife	Rescue centres constructed and	2027	TBD for each		1.98

⁶ A Rescue Centre is a place to safely host and care for wild, injured or orphaned Leopards with the aim to release them again to the wild or – if this is not possible – to integrate them into a breeding programme. A Rescue Centre is neither a zoo nor a breeding centre, but it might be integrated into such a facility to allow easy access to know-how, equipment, and infrastructure.

Result	Activity	Actor	Indicator	Timeline	Budget	CAMI POW	Priority ¹
Leopard by 2027.	specific Persian Leopard rescue centres ⁷ in identified institutions or build new ones, where needed/feasible	centres in cooperation with national/regional authorities and national/international experts (e.g. EAZA bodies) and conservation NGOs	approved by EAZA Persian Leopard EEP/designated zoo expert.		rescue centre		
	Activity 4.1.3. Develop an <i>ex situ</i> husbandry plan and protocol(s) for taking care of wild Persian Leopards and a decision-making tree for their destinies (in English) and adapt them to the national conditions and responsibilities (in national languages).	EAZA Felid TAG and Persian Leopard EEP in cooperation with national authorities and experts	Over-arching template and national rescue plans and related protocols available	2023-24	20.000 USD		1.77
	Activity 4.1.4. Educate the husbandry staff and veterinarians of the rescue centres in taking care of wild Persian Leopard.	EAZA Felid TAG and Persian Leopard EEP, supported by national institutions and national/international conservation NGOs	Each rescue centre has educated staff to hold wild Persian Leopards	2027	10.000 USD (per State)		1.98
Result 4.2. All Persian Leopard Range States have formed, and trained functional task force(s) (e.g. wildlife or veterinary services, rangers, police, etc.) able to intervene and	Activity 4.2.1. Develop guidelines/specific protocol(s) (in English) for <i>in situ</i> interventions and rescue operations of Persian Leopard and adapt them to the national conditions and responsibilities (in national languages).	Consultant in cooperation with (inter)national experts, national authorities and NGOs	National rescue plan and related protocols available	2023-24	20.000 USD		1.85
	Activity 4.2.2. Establish a training plan/protocol (based on the <i>in situ</i>	(Inter)national group of experts	Training programme is available and ready to	2023	5.000 USD	19.3, 19.6	1.98

⁷ Templates for rescue centres are available for other species or, explicitly for Persian Leopards, from facilities in EEP zoos or specific Breeding Centres.

Result	Activity	Actor	Indicator	Timeline	Budget	CAMI POW	Priority ¹
properly handle wild, injured or orphaned Persian Leopards, problem animals or specimens to be confiscated from private persons or institutions by 2027.	guidelines; Activity 4.2.1) for the education of intervention task forces in Persian Leopard Range States	in cooperation with consultant(s) for Activity 4.1.1 & 4.1.3 and other international/national institutions	be applied				
	Activity 4.2.3. Establish and train at least one task force per Range State about rapid <i>in situ</i> interventions to capture/rescue injured Persian Leopards or problem animals in the field in cooperation with national wildlife management bodies and the rescue centres	National/provincial wildlife management authority, rescue centre(s), NGOs and experts	All areas with Persian Leopard presence have a fast intervention team that is trained and equipped Two teams formed/educated per year	2032	10.000 USD		2.06
Result 4.3. A range-wide plan for establishing and maintaining a demographically and genetically healthy <i>ex situ</i> population as a safe source for Persian Leopards in cooperation the EAZA EEP and regional zoos, Rescue and/or Breeding Centres ⁸ is developed and endorsed by 2027 and subsequently regularly reviewed and updated	Activity 4.3.1. Expand the current EAZA Long-Term Management Plan for the Persian Leopard EEP into a strategy for the <i>ex situ</i> Persian Leopard population including all institutions and animals, respectively, in Persian Leopard Range States to ensure a demographically and genetically healthy captive population for future re-introduction activities.	EAZA Felid TAG and Persian Leopard EEP in cooperation with national experts and national authorities	Range-wide <i>ex situ</i> Persian Leopard conservation strategy endorsed and implemented in all Range States and other States holding Persian Leopards	2023 (drafted)/ 25 (endorsed)	N/A		1.46
	Activity 4.3.2. Develop and implement standardised release and post-release monitoring protocols for the <i>ex situ</i> Persian Leopard population in the Range States.	EAZA Felid TAG and Persian Leopard EEP in cooperation with national experts and national authorities	Release and post-release monitoring protocols developed and shared	2025	TBD		1.58

⁸ The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria maintains an *ex situ* programme (EEP) and studbook for the Persian Leopard with the goal to secure a genetically and demographically healthy population of Persian Leopard in the zoos. The EEP cooperates with zoos in the Range States. Specific Breeding Centres or Rescue Centres have a different task, but all three types of institutions need to strategically cooperate based on a regularly reviewed plan and agreement.

Result	Activity	Actor	Indicator	Timeline	Budget	CAMI POW	Priority ¹
Theme 2: Conservation of suitable habitats and connectivity							
Objective 5. To establish and promote effectively managed networks of interconnected protected areas and corridors for the conservation of Persian Leopards in close cooperation with local land users							
Result 5.1. Priority areas and corridors for Persian Leopard and its key wild prey are modelled (and validated) by 2031 (see Result 1.1 & 3.1).	Activity 5.1.1. Produce high-resolution habitat suitability/occupancy models for Persian Leopard and its key wild prey species based on best available data and modelling techniques to inform spatially explicit conservation plans.	International expert working group including scientific institutions from the Range States	Scientific publications and range-wide report available and shared with relevant national institutions.	2024	55.000 USD	19.2, 19.5	2.38
	Activity 5.1.2. Ground-proof/validate habitat models and prove Persian Leopard and key wild prey presence at national levels and summarise findings in respective national reports to be shared with relevant institutions.	National teams	State-specific spatially explicit plans/reports available and shared with relevant national institutions.	2031	250.000 USD		2.33
Result 5.2. Priority areas are protected via effectively managed protected area systems by 2031 (see Result 1.1 & 2.1).	Activity 5.2.1. Recommend the identified Persian Leopard priority areas to the relevant authorities of each Range States to be taken into account as a scientific basis for protected area system decisions (see Activity 5.1.1 & 5.1.2).	Habitat modelling working group national teams	Recommendations for consideration of suitable Persian Leopard priority habitats into the PA system are received by governments of Persian Leopard Range States.	2027	5.000 USD	19.2	2.54
	Activity 5.2.2. Update or develop management plans for priority protected areas and agree upon including the information on suitable priority habitats and new scientific results (see Activity 2.1.3 & 5.1.1 – 5.1.3)	NGOs, GOs, working group members, PA managers	Management plans are available for key PAs (e.g. for PA managers)	2028	TBD (state dependent)	19.1	2.29
	Activity 5.2.3. Establish the unified reporting system of implementation of standardised management effectiveness tracking tools (e.g., METT) across protected areas of Persian Leopard Range States.	NGOs, GOs, PA managers	Standardised management effectiveness evaluation reports are regularly produced from all key PAs in each Persian Leopard Range State.	2031	TBD (state dependent)	19.7	1.83
	Activity 5.2.4. Monitor the protected area management effectiveness by using	NGOs, GOs, PA managers	Management effectiveness evaluation	2031	TBD (state		1.96

Result	Activity	Actor	Indicator	Timeline	Budget	CAMI POW	Priority ¹
	available standardised tools (e.g., METT) in the PAs from Persian Leopard Range States and adapt according to the outcomes.		reports exist for each priority PA and management plans are updated, when needed.		dependent)		
Result 5.3. Safe Persian Leopard movement is ensured through functional and well-managed system of corridors ⁹ (dispersion net, habitat, etc.) and safe wildlife passages in critical spots in PA systems and priority areas outside of PAs by 2031 (see Result 1.2).	Activity 5.3.1. Identify main Persian Leopard and prey movement corridors and evaluate barriers and threats with the use of adequate tools and best available data.	Habitat modelling working group (and national teams (see Activity 5.1.1 & 5.1.2)	Detailed maps of wildlife corridors, barriers and threat are available	2025	50.000 USD	19.2, 19.5	3.00
	Activity 5.3.2. Develop and implement management plans for important corridors including mitigation of movement barriers and threats	NGOs, relevant GOs, scientific experts, land users	Management plans for important habitats outside PAs are implemented	2031	TBD	19.5	2.50
	Activity 5.3.3. Monitor functionality of corridors and evaluate measures to mitigate barriers/threats		Effectiveness of corridor functionality, barriers and threats as well as respective mitigation measures is being monitored and respective report produced.	Regularly	TBD		2.42
Objective 6. To maintain or restore habitats for Persian Leopard and key wild prey between PAs and across their borders to assure connectivity between (sub) populations							
Result 6.1. Involvement of local community groups and key stakeholders in Persian Leopard conservation is ensured by 2030 (see Result 8.1).	Activity 6.1.1. Identify key local stakeholder groups for Persian Leopard conservation in priority areas/corridors and develop specific programmes for each group (see Activity 9.1.1).	NGOs, (conservation) social scientists	Group-specific programmes to incorporate key stakeholders in to Persian Leopard/ wildlife conservation are produced.	2024	150.000 USD	5.6 – 5.11,5, 15,19. 2	2.54
	Activity 6.1.2. Implement specific programmes for key stakeholders and	NGOs, social scientists, local	Stakeholder groups and local communities are	2026-27	250.000 USD	5.6 – 5.11,1	2.13

⁹ Corridors include passages which can be natural and/or artificial

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority¹</i>
	local communities to enhance their involvement in Persian Leopard conservation (see Activity 9.1.2 & 9.2.1)	promoters and community representatives	informed about and involved/engaged in Persian Leopard and wildlife conservation in their territories			9.10, 19.11	
	Activity 6.1.3. Monitor the effectiveness of the specific programmes and adapt them wherever needed		Reports on the effect of the programme on local people and wildlife are produced and discussed with the local communities and updated/improved in a participatory approach	2031	250.000 USD	5.6 – 5.11, 19.7	2.00
Theme 3: Human Dimension.							
Objective 7. To mitigate human-Persian Leopard conflicts to allow long-term coexistence of local people and Persian Leopards							
Result 7.1. Guideline and practical tools to prevent livestock losses to Persian Leopard attacks are made available to livestock owners, and, where appropriate, conservation and mitigation incentive schemes are established by 2027.	Activity 7.1.1. Perform an inclusive assessment of conflicts related to livestock losses to Persian Leopard attacks, including the local availability of key wild prey.	NGOs, GOs (local authorities), local communities (livestock owners, farmers), scientists	A comprehensive assessment of Persian Leopard attacks on livestock and related conflicts at a range-wide level is done and information shared with national and local institutions	2025	50.000 USD	4.1– 4.15, 5.3, 19.3, 19.7	2.25
	Activity 7.1.2. Develop and promote locally adapted livestock protective measures in collaboration with local communities for sites with high conflict levels (see Activity 7.1.1).		Manual for the application of livestock protection/husbandry is available in local languages and applied in each Range States in high conflict areas.	2025	50.000 USD		2.17
	Activity 7.1.3. Survey and assess livestock grazing in priority areas inside and outside PAs across the Persian Leopard range, with emphasis on habitats degraded from overgrazing	NGOs, GOs, local communities, scientific institutions/ universities	Monitoring and evaluation reports on livestock grazing in priority areas and its impact on wild ungulates are available.	2025	250.000 USD	4.1 - 4.15, 19.3, 19.4, 19.7	1.96

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority¹</i>
	Activity 7.1.4. Develop respective livestock husbandry guidelines for PAs and corridor areas to prevent overgrazing (see Activity 7.1.3).		Sustainable livestock husbandry guidelines are developed and endorsed by relevant (governmental) organisations.	2027	TBD	4.1 – 4.15, 5.3, 19.3	1.96
	Activity 7.1.5. Train pastoralists about conflict mitigation tools and sustainable livestock husbandry practices, through collaborative workshops.	NGOs, GOs, local communities, scientific institutions/universities, pastoralists	Number of people trained, Reports on workshops are available.	2027	50.000 USD	4.4 – 4.6, 19.3	2.21
	Activity 7.1.6. Monitor and evaluate the effects of conflict mitigation measures and adopted livestock husbandry on local economy, Persian Leopard and key wild prey populations, and adapt guidelines as needed	NGOs, scientists, local livestock and wildlife authorities, livestock owners	Livestock losses reduced, livestock-related income increased, Persian Leopard and wildlife situation improved.	2030	TBD	4.1 – 4.15, 19.3, 19.7	2.21
Result 7.2. The importance and severity of feral dogs, free-ranging dogs and livestock guardian dogs as a driver (human-Persian Leopard conflict, key wild prey depletion) or a threat (attacking Persian Leopards, kleptoparasitism) is assessed and understood by end of 2025.	Activity 7.2.1. Assess the impact of feral dogs, free-ranging dogs and livestock guarding dogs on Persian Leopards and key wild prey species in priority areas (see Activity 7.1.2).	NGOs, responsible GOs, local communities, scientific institutions in cooperation with local communities.	Assessments reports and scientific articles are available	2024	50.000 USD	4.12	1.71
	Activity 7.2.2. Share the assessment reports with relevant stakeholders (GOs, local communities) to address conflicts and inform dog management (see Activity 7.1.2).		Stakeholders are informed and results of A.7.2.1 are integrated into livestock husbandry guidelines	2025	10.000 USD		1.67
Objective 8. To ensure long term support of local communities to Persian Leopard conservation by improving their conservation-friendly livelihood and involving them in Persian Leopard conservation							
Result 8.1. A strategy to involve and integrate the local communities	Activity 8.1.1. Develop a strategy to involve and integrate the local communities and to improve the attitudes	Conservation NGOs, GOs, local communities,	Strategy on involvement and integration of local communities and	2025	250.000 USD	19.3	

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority¹</i>
and different stakeholder groups's attitudes towards issues related to Persian Leopard, wildlife, and nature conservation is developed and implemented by 2031.	of different stakeholder groups to Persian Leopard, wildlife, and nature conservation.	scientific institutions /universities	stakeholder groups is developed				
	Activity 8.1.2. Implement the strategy to involve and integrate the local communities and improve the attitude of different stakeholder groups to Persian Leopard, wildlife, and nature conservation.		Report on the assessment and evaluation of the implemented strategy; Number of local communities involved, Number of new areas under protection outside PAs	2031	20 M USD		
	Activity 8.1.3. Implement locally adaptable human-leopard conflict mitigation measures (e.g., electric fencing, trained livestock guarding dogs, training pastoralists, livestock protective collars, livestock predator proof corrals) in areas with a high conflict level (see Activity 7.1.1. & 7.1.2.).	Conservation NGOs, GOs, local communities, individuals	Reports on conflicts and mitigated measures are available; assessment and evaluation of implemented measures are conducted	2031	2.25 M USD		2.38
	Activity 8.1.4. Develop and implement livestock compensation schemes or livestock insurance where carnivore predation is high (see Activity 7.1.2.).		Reports on livestock compensation schemes and livestock insurance implementation are developed	2031	4.25 M USD		2.25
Result 8.2. Plans for integrative livestock husbandry practices and sustainable rangeland management are available by 2027 and implemented by 2031	Activity 8.2.1. Develop and implement plans for integrative livestock husbandry practices and sustainable rangeland management in priority PAs and priority non-protected areas (see Activities 2.2.1, 7.1.3 & 7.1.4)	NGOs, GOs, local communities, scientific institutions/universities	Sustainable rangeland management plans including the integration of livestock husbandry practices are produced, disseminated and implemented	2031	3 M USD	4.1 - 4.15, 19.3, 19.4	1.91

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority¹</i>
Objective 9. To advance awareness, education and competence of all interest groups involved in or concerned by Persian Leopard conservation to increase their understanding and knowledge base for conservation.							
Result 9.1. Conservation education programmes for specific groups (e.g. local hunters, shepherds, school children, rangers, border guards, local police officers) are developed, shared, mainstreamed and applied in the Persian Leopard priority areas inside and outside protected areas by 2027.	Activity 9.1.1. Identify target groups in priority areas and assess their level of awareness of Persian Leopard, wildlife and environment in general.	NGOs, GOs, local communities, scientific institutions, universities	Target groups identified and baseline reports produced	2025	500.000 USD	5.2, 5.6, 5.8, 19.10.	2.25
	Activity 9.1.2. Develop and implement education programmes in priority areas of Persian Leopard habitats addressing the needs of identified target groups as defined in the assessment report (see Activity 9.1.1)		Report on education programmes development and implementation is available	2031	3.5 M USD		2.17
Result 9.2. A scheme to continuously inform local communities and target groups about conservation of the Persian Leopard and nature in general is established by 2027.	Activity 9.2.1. Develop and implement a scheme on information sharing with local communities and target groups about conservation of the Persian Leopard and nature in general	NGOs, GOs, local communities, scientific institutions, universities	Reports on the developed and implemented scheme are available.	2031	1.5 M USD	19.8, 19.9	2.08
Result 9.3. The capacity (personnel, funding) needed for awareness-raising and consistent educational programmes (→ Results 9.1 & 9.2) is created by 2027 and continually maintained and applied thereafter.	Activity 9.3.1. Assess capacity-building needs for awareness-raising and the development of consistent educational programmes and identify the points of action as well as key people to address and consider (see Activities 8.1.1, 9.1.2, 12.2.1 & 12.2.2)	NGOs, GOs, scientific institutions, universities	Report on the assessment, including recommendations of points of action and a list of key people to address are available.	2025	TBD	7.1 – 7.5, 19.10	1.71
	Activity 9.3.2. Address the points of action identified under Activity 9.3.1 to enhance and create the capacity needed for awareness-raising and for developing consistent educational programmes by	NGOs, GOs, scientific institutions, universities, identified key	Report on conducted workshops and trainings is available, number of people that attended the workshops and are	2027	TBD		1.83

Result	Activity	Actor	Indicator	Timeline	Budget	CAMI POW	Priority ¹
	conducting participatory workshops and trainings with identified key people (see Activity 8.1.1 & 8.1.2)	people	trained				
	Activity 9.3.3. Continually re-assess capacity-building needs for awareness-raising and for developing educational programmes and if needed repeat workshops and trainings as defined under A 9.3.2		Assessment report on capacity-building needs, additional number of people that attended the workshop and are trained	Regularly	TBD		1.63
Result 9.4. Capacity building programmes to address gaps in research and Persian Leopard conservation by training and supporting specific groups (e.g. students, scientists and wildlife rangers, community supporters and Persian Leopard care takers)	Activity 9.4.1. Identify gaps in Persian Leopard research and conservation and develop capacity building programmes for the target groups (e.g. students, scientists, and wildlife rangers) addressing those gaps	National/ international NGOs, GOs, scientific institutions, universities	Report on gap analysis produced, capacity building programmes developed	2025	500.000 USD	7.1 – 7.5, 19.2	2.58
	Activity 9.4.2. Implement capacity building programmes for the target groups (e.g. students, scientists, wildlife rangers, community supporters/Persian Leopard caretakers)		Report on implementation of capacity building programmes, number of people that successfully attended training programmes	2027	1.5 M USD		2.58
Theme 4: Policy, Legislation and International Cooperation.							
Objective 10. To optimise existing policies including communication with local land users, adopt new laws as needed, and strengthen law enforcement (e.g. on poaching and illegal trade)							
Result 10.1. NAPs and other related programmes for Persian Leopard conservation are developed and, in case they exist, revised in compliance with the range-wide Conservation Strategy for the Persian Leopard and other multilateral	Activity 10.1.1. Organise expert meetings for development/up-date of NAPs based on the range-wide Conservation Strategy and revise or develop NAPs.	Relevant national authorities, academia, NGOs, national expert group	Revised or developed NAPs are available	2024	25.000 USD per State	2.1, 19.1	2.17
	Activity 10.1.2. Promote the approval of NAPs by national authorities.	Relevant national authorities	Endorsed NAPs by national authorities	2024	TBD		2.00

Result	Activity	Actor	Indicator	Timeline	Budget	CAMI POW	Priority ¹
environmental agreements by 2024.							
Result 10.2. Every five-years thereafter, the progress of implementation of NAPs is tracked by national expert teams together with the national wildlife authorities and other relevant authorities, and coordination of all other relevant issues on national level is organised.	Activity 10.2.1. Organise consultations with national stakeholders and/or experts to prepare adaptive proposals for NAPs	Persian Leopard Working group members	Report of working group on the need of NAPs updates	Every five years	TBD	19.1	1.54
	Activity 10.2.2. Update the NAPs according to the recommendation reports of A 10.2.1 based on the adaptive management framework.		Updated NAPs	Every five years	TBD		1.71
Objective 11. To strengthen international and transboundary cooperation for the conservation of the Persian Leopard and its key wild prey species							
Result 11.1. Transboundary initiatives on monitoring at appropriate levels (e.g. sub-regional, national) are in place by 2027 (see Result 3.3, and 12.1)	Activity 11.1.1. Identify transboundary monitoring/survey areas for Persian Leopard (also see Activity 3.1.1 & 3.1.2)	National expert groups (GOs, academia, NGOs)	Inventory of monitoring/survey areas including detailed maps	2023	TBD	19.2	2.88
	Activity 11.1.2. Establish a monitoring work programme for transboundary monitoring initiatives, and conduct meetings at least once a year (see Activities 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1., 3.2.2 & 3.3.1)	Academia, GOs, NGOs, national monitoring working group(s)	List of working group members and meeting minutes, monitoring work programme available	2023	TBD	19.7	2.79
	Activity 11.1.3. Implement the monitoring work programme as defined under 11.1.2 (see A 1.2.2. & 3.3.2.)		Report on implemented monitoring work programme	2027	TBD	19.2	2.50
	Activity 11.1.4. Prepare annual national monitoring reports (at least in priority areas) and share them with CMS CAMI, other Range States and relevant stakeholders (see Activity 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3 & 3.5.1)	National working group members	Illustrated report with images of identified Persian Leopard and other relevant information (e.g. ungulate census)	Annually	TBD	19.7, 19.8, 19.9	2.29

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority¹</i>
Result 11.2. Illegal trans-border trade in Persian Leopard/other species and derivatives is suppressed and prevented, wherever it occurs.	Activity 11.2.1. Train and equip national customs and other relevant GOs to combat illegal trade in Persian Leopard and their parts as well of other species	National customs, national monitoring groups, relevant authorities, CITES, TRAFFIC	Number of trained and equipped authorities' representatives, report on training conducted	2027	TBD	2.2 - 2.4, 19.6	1.65
	Activity 11.2.2. Ensure exchange of information between national customs, other relevant authorities, CITES, TRAFFIC and national Persian Leopard monitoring working groups and enhance the coordination at national and regional level with regard to CITES implementation (see Activities 11.1.2 & 3.4.1 – 3.4.3)	Customs, CITES authorities, working groups, TRAFFIC, national monitoring working groups, other relevant authorities	Report on records of illegal trade produced, information on previously identified Persian Leopards of monitoring groups is shared, regular exchange of information at national and regional levels	ASAP	TBD	2.5, 2.7, 19.8	1.40
	Activity 11.2.3. Promote the inclusion of intelligence on illegal Persian Leopard trade and illegal wildlife trade ¹⁰ generally into conservation plans (e.g. NAPs) by developing recommendations on how to combat illegal trade (see Activity 10.1.2 & 10.2.2)		Report with recommendations on how to address illegal trade in Persian Leopards	ASAP	TBD	2.1 – 2.8, 19.1	1.27
Result 11.3. A set of targeted remedial initiatives are developed and initiated to support functional connectivity within transboundary landscapes by 2027 (see R 1.2 & 5.3)	Activity 11.3.1 Develop concrete transboundary conservation initiatives (based on common regional conservation strategies/agreements (e.g. ECP; see Activity 10.1.2 & 10.2.2)	Working group with relevant stakeholders (scientists, GOs, NGOs)	Reports on transboundary conservation initiatives is available	2032	TBD	19.2.	2.25
	Activity 11.3.2 Identify transboundary landscapes relevant to Persian Leopard conservation initiatives based on the results from Activity 11.1.1 (also see Activity 1.1.1 & 3.1.1)	Relevant national Working Groups	Proposals of landscapes for selected conservation initiatives are available	2024	TBD		2.63
	Activity 11.3.3. Develop spatially explicit transboundary conservation initiatives in a	GOs in charge in cooperation with	Report on concrete transboundary	2027	TBD	1.6, 1.7	2.54

¹⁰ Consider synergies between other action plans and strategies

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority¹</i>
	participatory process including working groups and relevant stakeholders of all Range States and implement the selected transboundary initiatives led by respective national governmental bodies	Working Group	conservation initiatives released and progress reports published annually				
Objective 12. To secure international support and funding for the implementation of conservation activities for the Persian Leopard and its key wild prey across their range							
Result 12.1. Cooperation between governmental, non-governmental and academic institutions for Persian Leopard conservation is established at national level by 2024, and transboundary cooperation is established by 2027.	Activity 12.1.1. Define the cooperation between governmental, non-governmental and academic institutions for Persian Leopard conservation in the frame of the development or revision of NAPs for Persian Leopard	Relevant national authorities, academic institutions and NGOs	NAPs with coordination scheme developed/updated and endorsed	2023	TBD	1.4	2.17
	Activity 12.1.2. Identify the needs for Persian Leopard-related transboundary cooperation and agree on further steps for transboundary cooperation for the conservation of the Persian Leopard (e.g., in the form of bilateral or multilateral agreements, where necessary)	Governmental agencies, CMS, IGOs, INGOs, NGOs	Transboundary cooperation needs identified and further agreements concluded, where needed	TBD	TBD	1.1 - 1.4, 2.7	1.91
Result 12.2 A broad base of funding from (inter-) governmental and private donors is secured to ensure long term support for Persian Leopard conservation in accordance with the CAMI POW as soon as possible.	Activity 12.2.1. Produce an overview report with a realistic timeline and budget for the implementation of this Conservation Strategy and a list of additional priority projects for Persian Leopard conservation (see Activity 12.2.3).	Consultant in cooperation with governmental agencies, CMS, IGOs, INGOs, NGOs, and scientific institutions	Report with realistic estimation of financial needs and a timeframe available	TBD	10.000 USD		2.13
	Activity 12.2.2. Integrate Persian Leopard conservation into the CAMI fundraising strategy and establish the Persian Leopard as a flagship species to raise funds also for projects related to Persian Leopard habitats, key wild prey and human-Persian Leopard co-existence.	GO, CMS CAMI, IGOs, INGOs, NGOs (not all Range States are CMS members)	Fundraising strategy for Persian Leopard conservation within the CAMI fundraising strategy available	2024	TBD	31.1 - 31.12	2.83
	Activity 12.2.3. Ensure that NAPs based on this range-wide Conservation Strategy	NGOs, GOs, experts, relevant	NAPs include a concrete budget for	2025	TBD		2.29

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>CAMI POW</i>	<i>Priority</i> 1
	include concrete budgets for each Activity.	national authorities, private donors	activities				
	Activity 12.2.4. Create and promote a project and a budget plan aligned with the Activities defined in this range-wide Conservation Strategy and/or NAPs to be used for approaching private donors.		Project and budget plan are available, funding for certain projects is generated	2026	TBD		2.41