

**First Range State Meeting for the Persian Leopard**

*Tbilisi, Georgia, 20 – 22 September 2022*

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**COMPILATION OF EXISTING CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND NATIONAL ACTION  
PLANS, DEVELOPED FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE PERSIAN LEOPARD (*PANTHERA  
PARDUS TULLIANA*)**

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## Introduction

1. Large cats such as the Persian Leopard *Panthera pardus tulliana* live at very low densities, often in the range of 1–3 mature individuals per 100 km<sup>2</sup>, sometimes even less, rarely more. Such low abundance implies that viable populations need an extended range in the magnitude of many thousands of square kilometres. In our modern world, the distribution range of leopards is fragmented through human-made infrastructure and agricultural lands, and the best remaining habitats for wildlife are mostly in remote areas, in the mountains, and in border regions. The transboundary nature of most of the important remnant populations of the Persian Leopard implies that for its conservation, countries sharing such populations should work together to ensure that conservation measures are being applied on either side of the border.
2. The Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN SSC) recommends a careful strategic planning for species conservation<sup>1</sup>, especially in the case where international cooperation is needed (IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee 2017; Breitenmoser et al. 2014). In the case of widely distributed cat species, the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group recommends<sup>2</sup> to develop a range-wide *Conservation Strategy* as an over-arching document for more detailed and precisely tailored *National Action Plans* guiding the actual conservation approach for each Range State.
3. The present document lists international and national conservation plans that had been developed for the conservation of the Persian Leopard to date<sup>3</sup>:

### *International/regional conservation strategies:*

1. Programme of Work for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (2021-2026). UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.24 (Rev.COP13), Gandhinagar, February 2020, 28 pp.  
  
Includes a work plan in the form of a logical framework with conservation activities for all CAMI species, with 11 activities specifically for the Persian leopard. *Download:* [https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms\\_cop13\\_res.11.24\\_rev.cop13\\_e.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop13_res.11.24_rev.cop13_e.pdf)  
  
Also available in Russian (<https://www.cms.int/cami/en/page/programme-work>)
2. Ecoregional Conservation Plan for the Caucasus: 2020 Edition. Edited by Zazanashvili N, Sanadiradze G, Garforth M, Bitsadze M, Manvelyan K, Askerov E, Mousavi M, Krever V, Shmunk V, Kalem S, Tavsels S. WWF, KfW; Tbilisi, 64 pp.  
  
A framework for the conservation of nature and wildlife in the entire Caucasus Ecoregion. *Download:* [https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/ecp\\_2020\\_part\\_1.pdf](https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/ecp_2020_part_1.pdf)
3. Strategy for the Conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus Ecoregion, revised version 2017. Developed by the Caucasus Leopard Working Group. 2017, edited by the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group, Muri b. Bern, Switzerland and the WWF Caucasus Office, Tbilisi, Georgia, 29 pp.  
  
An updated version of the pan-Caucasian conservation strategy for the leopard. *Download:*

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee (2017) Guidelines for Species Conservation Planning. Version 1.0. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xiv + 114 pp.

<sup>2</sup> Breitenmoser U., Lanz T., Vogt K. & Breitenmoser-Würsten C. 2015. How to save the cat - Cat Conservation Compendium, a practical guideline for strategic and project planning in cat conservation. Cat News Special Issue 9, 36 pp.

<sup>3</sup> We consider here documents that we have been aware of until August 2022. We are grateful for information on any related document that we may have missed.

[http://www.catsg.org/fileadmin/filesharing/3.Conservation\\_Center/3.4\\_Strategies\\_Action\\_Plans/leopard\\_Asia/Caucasus\\_Leopard\\_Working\\_Group\\_2017\\_Strategy\\_for\\_the\\_Conservation\\_of\\_the\\_leopard\\_in\\_the\\_Caucasus.pdf](http://www.catsg.org/fileadmin/filesharing/3.Conservation_Center/3.4_Strategies_Action_Plans/leopard_Asia/Caucasus_Leopard_Working_Group_2017_Strategy_for_the_Conservation_of_the_leopard_in_the_Caucasus.pdf)

*National conservation action plans and other related documents (by country in alphabetic order):*

#### Armenia

4. National Action Plan for the Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) Conservation in Armenia (2010-2020); Yerevan 2008. Coordinated by WWF-Armenia. Editor: Igor Khorozyan. Authors: Igor Khorozyan, Nugzar Zazanashvili, Karen Manvelyan, Siranush Galstyan, Arthur Khoyetsyan, Alexander Malkhasyan, Aram Aghasyan, Mamikon Ghasabyan, Armen Gevorgyan, Vadim Uzunyan, Norair Abrahamyan, Roza Margaryan, Hasmik Gevorgyan, Gayane Poghosyan, Rubik Shaghazizyan, Mark Kalashyan, Arthur Karapetyan, Zhanna Galyan, Khachik Khalatyan, Lusine Nalbandyan.

Available in English and Armenian. Implementation status: >80%. Download: [https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/leopard\\_action\\_plan\\_eng\\_final\\_1.pdf?uNewsID=7403341](https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/leopard_action_plan_eng_final_1.pdf?uNewsID=7403341)

5. National Action Plan for the Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) Conservation in Armenia (2020-2030), Yerevan 2019. Coordinated by WWF-Armenia. Editor: Igor Khorozyan. Authors: Igor Khorozyan, Nugzar Zazanashvili, Karen Manvelyan, Alexander Malkhasyan, Vasil Ananyan, Voskehat Grigoryan, Aram Aghasyan, Mamikon Ghasabyan, Andranik Gyonjyan, Sevak Baloyan, Arsen Gasparyan, Norayr Abrahamyan, Tigran Hayrapetyan, Astghik Ghazaryan, Georgy Papov, Karen Aghababyan, Martiros Nalbandyan, Hrach Ghazaryan, Arman Kandaryan, Hermine Hakobyan, Arman Mkrtchyan, Hrachia Hovakimyan, Gagik Gevorgyan, Arman Vermishyan, Smbat Gharibyan, Levon Petrosyan, Ruben Mkrtchyan, Argam Margaryan, Sasun Manukyan, Murad Harutyunyan, Manuk Manukyan, Diana Yeritspokyants, Arevik Mkrtchyan.

Available in Armenian and English. Implementation status: >25%. Download: [Microsoft Word - Action plan 2019 title page ENG final.doc \(panda.org\)](#)

#### Azerbaijan

6. National Action Plan on Protection of the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) in Azerbaijan (2009-2014). The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic, Baku 2008.
7. Available in Azeri and English. Implementation status: fully implemented. Download: [NAP AzLeo eng.pdf - Google Drive](#) National Action Plan on Protection of the Leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*) in Azerbaijan (2022-2027). The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic, Baku 2020.

Available in Azeri and English. Implementation status: not endorsed yet.

#### Georgia

8. National Action Plan for the Conservation of Leopard (*Pantera pardus*, L.) in Georgia (2010-2014). Tbilisi 2010. Coordinated by WWF Caucasus Programme Office and Centre for Biodiversity Conservation & Research (NACRES). Editors: Nugzar Zazanashvili, Irakli Shavgulidze and Bejan Lortkipanidze.

Available in Georgian and English. Download:  
[https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/national\\_action\\_plan\\_for\\_leopard\\_conservation\\_georgia\\_2010\\_2014\\_eng.pdf](https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/national_action_plan_for_leopard_conservation_georgia_2010_2014_eng.pdf)

### *Iran*

9. Conservation of Cats in Iran (A Roadmap to a comprehensive approach for the conservation of the indigenous cat species of the I. R. Iran) (2012). Editors: Asghar Fazel, Hossein Mohammadi, Urs Breitenmoser, Christine Breitenmoser. 10.13140/RG.2.1.4101.2720. 43 pp.

A roadmap for the conservation of all cat species in Iran, including the Persian leopards. Available at:  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304831022\\_Conservation\\_of\\_Cats\\_in\\_Iran\\_A\\_Roadmap\\_to\\_a\\_comprehensive\\_approach\\_for\\_the\\_conservation\\_of\\_the\\_indigenous\\_cat\\_species\\_of\\_the\\_I\\_R\\_Iran](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304831022_Conservation_of_Cats_in_Iran_A_Roadmap_to_a_comprehensive_approach_for_the_conservation_of_the_indigenous_cat_species_of_the_I_R_Iran)

10. Sanei, A., Teimouri, A., Ahmadi Fard, G., Asgarian, H.R., Alikhani, M. (2020). Introduction to the Persian Leopard National Conservation and Management Action Plan in Iran. In: Sanei, A. (eds) Research and Management Practices for Conservation of the Persian Leopard in Iran. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-28003-1\\_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-28003-1_8)

This article is an introduction to a specific conservation action plan for the Persian leopard in Iran, which was published in Iran in Farsi and endorsed in 2016. Its implementation status is not known. Abstract available at:  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347126235\\_Introduction\\_to\\_the\\_Persian\\_Leopard\\_National\\_Conservation\\_and\\_Management\\_Action\\_Plan\\_in\\_Iran](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347126235_Introduction_to_the_Persian_Leopard_National_Conservation_and_Management_Action_Plan_in_Iran)

### *Kazakhstan*

11. ПЛАН ДЕЙСТВИЙ ПО ПЕРЕДНЕАЗИАТСКОМУ ЛЕОПАРДУ В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ КАЗАХСТАН НА 2021-2025 ГГ. (Action Plan for the Asian Leopard in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2021–2025), 80 pp.

National Action Plan developed under the project Central Asia Desert Initiative (CADI) by the "Kazakhstan Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity". In Russian. Authors: Mikhail Pestov, Konstantin Plakhov, Vladimir Terentiev, Aray Belgubaeva, Dmitri Deniso. Download: [https://cadi.uni-greifswald.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Action-plan-Leopard\\_final-2021.pdf](https://cadi.uni-greifswald.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Action-plan-Leopard_final-2021.pdf)

### *Russian Federation*

12. Program for reintroduction of Persian leopard in the Caucasus region, 2006, approved by the MNRE in 2007, Rozhnov V.V., Lukarevskiy V.S.

Available in Russian and English. Download:  
[https://wwf.ru/upload/iblock/896/program\\_for\\_reintroduction\\_1-1.pdf](https://wwf.ru/upload/iblock/896/program_for_reintroduction_1-1.pdf)

13. The restoration of Persian leopard in the Caucasus (scientific approach), Rozhnov V.V., Yachmennikova A.A., Dronova N.A., Phitikov A.B., Magomedov M.-R.D., Chestin I.E., Mnatsekanov R.A., Blidchenko E.Yu., Voshchanova I.P., Alshinetski M.V., Alibekov A.B. Moscow. KMK Scientific Press Ltd. 2020. 219 p

Available in Russian and English. Download: [https://sev-in.ru/sites/default/files/2020-09/%D0%92%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5%20%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BE%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B4%D0%B0\\_2020\\_0.pdf](https://sev-in.ru/sites/default/files/2020-09/%D0%92%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5%20%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BE%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B4%D0%B0_2020_0.pdf)