



Status of National Action Plan for Conservation of the Leopard in the Azerbaijan Republic

Konul Ahmadova / WWF-Azerbaijan
20 September 2022



National Action Plan for Conservation of the Leopard in Azerbaijan Republic (2010-2014)

Approved on September 14th, 2009 by the Decree No 514/4 of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic

Identified 7 objectives and 21 activities:

Purpose	Activity	Status
1. Investigation and monitoring of leopard and its wild prey populations – different herbivores (i.e., red deer, bezoar goat, mouflon, wild boar, roe deer, tur, chamois and etc.) in leopard's habitats	1.1 Analyze both leopard and its wild prey populations statuses in the country	Implemented
	1.2. Develop a standardized methodology for leopard monitoring	Partly implemented
	1.3 Train specialist from Protected Areas (PA) to carry out monitoring activities and involve volunteers from scientific institution in leopard monitoring and conserving activities	Implemented
	1.4. Implement a long-term monitoring program for leopard and its wild prey populations in relevant areas (i.e., Hirkan and Ordubad National Parks, Alazan Mingechaur zone, etc.)	Implemented
	1.5. Create a baseline for monitoring leopard populations based on information collected from countries of the Caucasus Ecoregion	Implemented



National Action Plan for Conservation of the Leopard in Azerbaijan Republic (2010-2014)

Approved on September 14th, 2009 by the Decree No 514/4 of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic

Identified 7 objectives and 21 activities:

Purpose	Activity	Status
2. Development of legal basis for protecting leopard and its habitats	2.1. Develop amendments and addendums to the legislation in order to increase the effectiveness of leopard conservation	Partly implemented
	2.2. Create the legal basis for implementing conservation corridors	Not implemented yet
3. Ensure protection of leopard and its wild prey in areas of their distribution (Hirkan and Ordubad National Parks, AlazanMingechaur areas and etc.)	3.1. Establish, training and equip anti-poaching brigades in Hirkan and Ordubad National Parks, Alazan-Mingechaur areas, etc	Partly implemented
	3.2. Prevent and prohibit the use of toxic chemical substances, fertilizers, etc. in habitats (especially in the forests) where leopard and its wild prey live	Implemented
	3.3. Develop and update Management Plans for PA where leopard populations live	Partly implemented
	3.4. Develop infrastructure and equipment in PA according to their Management Plans	Partly implemented

Purpose	Activity	Status
4. Restore and increase the numbers of leopard and its wild prey	4.1. Conduct a feasibility study for the reintroduction of leopards into historical ranges with the involvement of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) cat specialists' group	Cancelled
	4.2. Develop reintroduction programs, when necessary, of leopards and its wild prey into historical ranges with participation of the SSJ/IUJN, Cat, Reintroduction Groups	Partly implemented
	4.3. Starting implementation of reintroduction programs	Partly implemented
5. Establishment of the PA Network, including the enlargement of existing PAs, for improving Leopard conservation in Azerbaijan	5.1. Develop a PA system plan in leopard's range for planning the PA Network of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Not implemented yet
	5.2. Increase the territory of the PA system to maximize the covering area of identified and potential leopard habitats and migration ways (e.g., corridors, stepping stones, etc.)	Not implemented yet
	5.3. Start works for creating a transbordery PA network	Partly implemented



Purpose	Activity	Status
6. Involvement of local communities in conservation activities for leopards	6.1. Identify target groups and develop special programs for involving local people in conservation activities for leopards	Implemented
	6.2. Implement activities, identified in the special program	Partly implemented
7. Acquirement of required financial recourse for implementing the National Action Plan	7.1. Involve local and international organizations, as well as business sector for financing leopard conservation activities	Implemented
	7.2. Conduct a feasibility study for creating the National Fund for leopard conservation (with participation of the international experts)	Not implemented yet



Progress on National Action Plan

Approximately 50% of the National Action Plan (2010-2014) activities are performed and not implemented activities have been reflected in the new National Action Plan (2022-2027).

Low implementation caused by:

- Unrealistic timeframe for some Objectives
- Limited financial support
- Low capacity to perform some Activities



National Action Plan for Conservation of the Leopard in Azerbaijan Republic (2022-2027)

Not approved

Identified 5 objectives and 20 activities:

1. Improve management in habitats of leopard as well in target PAs
2. Improve monitoring systems and scientific research
3. Organize awareness raising activities for conservation of leopards
4. Strengthen existing legislation in order to increase the effectiveness of leopard conservation
5. Implementation of the NAP for 2022-2025 and regional cooperation



WWF-Caucasus project on Conservation of the Leopard in the Southern Caucasus

Supported by WWF-Switzerland and WWF-Germany to meet 5 Objectives (2016-2019):

1. Poaching outside protected areas is reduced and mechanisms to mitigate human-leopard conflicts are developed;
2. At least five buffer zone communities are engaged in complementary rural development activities;
3. Capacity of targeted protected areas are strengthened and law enforcement is improved;
4. Monitoring of leopard and prey species is further developed; documentation for establishing leopard corridor(s) is prepared;
5. 70% of the inhabitants of the target communities support activities for leopard conservation.



WWF-Caucasus project the Last Free Ranging Leopards in Europe (Southern Caucasus)

Supported by WWF-Switzerland and WWF-Germany to meet 5 Objectives (2020-2023):

1. Around 5,000 inhabitants of at least 10 target communities benefit from mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts.
2. Network of 16 leopard caretakers monitor respective areas effectively contributing to zero poaching of leopard and increasing of prey species population numbers.
3. Management effectiveness increased by 20% in at least 5 target protected areas and 1 community conserved area contributing to zero poaching of leopard and increasing of bezoar and mouflon (prey species) species by approx. 20% within the past decade according to expert census.
4. Status of leopard and its prey species is regularly assessed via scientifically based monitoring and data processing.
5. Around 300 schoolchildren of at least 6 target communities are involved in school campaigns and at least 10 meetings are conducted with border police to raise awareness on importance of leopard conservation.



Thank you!