III. INDICATORS OF SUCCESS OF OBJECTIVES OF CONSERVATION MEASURES

1. **By 2024 increase the range of Bezoar goat by 15% and the number by 70%.**

The area might harbour some 50 of 200-300 bezoar goats observed on the Gndasar Massif. The expansion of their range outside the current range depends on absence of poaching and the availability and productivity of their habitat.

1. **By 2024 secure the presence of resident population in the area, increase the range and the number of Armenian mouflon by 70%.**

Currently the area might harbour about 5-15 Armenian mouflons but these animals can hardly be regarded as residents. The area is typical mouflon habitat, but the number of mouflons is far below the habitat capacity for the reasons of poaching, disturbance of mouflon habitat by livestock and humans, including mine fields on the border zone with Nakhichevan.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF CONSERVATION MEASURES TO BE CARRIED OUT

1. **Zoning of Gndasar-West Conservation Area**

Gndasar-West CA will consists from core and sustainable use zones:

* The Core zone is devoted to wildlife habitat conservation and to protection of flora and fauna and landscape it contains. The Core area has strict protection status. To achieve the purpose, human activities in the core areas need to be limited as much as possible. This may require an agreement with the past and present users and visitors of the area to stop or modify their activities (possibly in conjunction with other conservation measures) as well as effective monitoring and control of access by caretakers (e.g. patrolling) and/or electronic means of surveillance (e.g. camera traps). Depending on the character of the area, some activities may be allowed, especially activities related to monitoring scientific research. They may also include visits for recreational or traditional purposes preferably along pre-defined trails, transit of domestic animals if this is the only feasible option, and low impact economic activities, such as collection of edible or medicinal plants or bee-keeping. The exceptions need to be clearly justified and defined in the management plan.
* The Sustainable Use zone surrounds and adjoins the core areas and used to support sustainable development (mainly traditional grazing), environmental education, ecotourism, and applied and basic research.

1. **Establishment of no-use, no-disturbance zones.**

Core zones of Gndasar-West CA will be no-use, no-disturbance zones: plot C1 – 208 ha, plot C2 – 889 ha, plot C3 – 123 ha, plot C4 – 457 ha, and plot C5 – 220 ha (see map in Annex 5).

1. **Establishment of a regulated grassland management system.**

Community-owned pastures and other agricultural lands will be divided into management categories and plots (see map in Annex 5). The Core zone is closed for grazing. In the Sustainable Use zone the use of pastures will be regulated on altitude basis, as to allow sufficient growth of grass in spring and thus increase pasture productivity while reducing soil erosion due to overgrazing and trampling (see map in Annex 5):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Open for grazing livestock from May 1 | Plot S3, S8 and S9 | 1317 ha |
| Open for grazing livestock from May 15 | Plot S2, S4, and S7 | 1466 ha |
| Open for grazing livestock from June 1 | Plot S1 and S6 | 1017 ha |
| Open for grazing livestock from June 15 | Plot S5 | 1468 ha |
| Closed for grazing livestock | Plots C1, C2, C3, C4 and C5; | 1897 ha |

1. **Anti-poaching control**

The coverage of Gndasar-West CA caretaker service in relation to wildlife management and poaching will cover Core and Sustainable use zones.

1. **Monitoring**

To verify the success of the conservation measures or in case of failure to adapt them, an impact monitoring system will be established by the Fund with the technical support of WWF, which will include regular counting and observation of wild animals. The monitoring results will be included in the annual reports.

**Annex 4**

# Wildlife habitat action plan of “Gndasar-West” Conservation Area of Zangakatun community for 2018-2024

| ***Purpose*** | | ***Objective*** | ***Description of measures to be carried out*** | ***Implemen-tation time*** | ***Responsible body*** | ***Performance indicators*** | ***Impact indicator*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Short-term measures (investments) | | | |  |  |  |  |
| Equipment | Purchase of equipment for habitat conservation | | Purchase of:   * Cross-country vehicle * Office * Office furniture set * Office equipment set * Binoculars * Photo cameras * Video-cameras * Trap-cameras | March 2018 | Fund for Biodiversity Conservation of Armenian Highland Fund for Biodiversity Conservation of Armenian Highland/The Fund/ | Presence of technically maintained equipment for habitat conservation | Thanks to increased technical capacity the conservation measures are implemented. |
| Pasture infrastructure | Setting up of livestock watering point | | Construction of livestock watering point, laying of pipelines, earthworks | April-May 2017 | The Fund/with assistance of Zangakatun Community (work force) | Presence of gravity water supplied to livestock watering point | More effective exploitation of remote pastures, less presence of cattle in Bezoar and Mouflon habitats and around Qaralich Pond. |
| Simple recreational and tourism infrastructure | Setting up the recreational and tourism area | | Cleansing works on surroundings of Qaralich Pond, creation of camping and picnic place | May-June 2018 | The Fund/with assistance of Zangakatun Community (work force) | Presence of recreational and tourism point with simple infrastructure | Better conditions for hosting tourists, better environment in and around Qaralich Pond |

| Purpose | Objective | | Description of measures to be carried out | Implemen-tation time | Responsible body | Performance indicators | | Impact indicator |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Long-term measures | | | |  |  | |  |  |
| Anti-poaching control | | Prevent poaching in Gndasar-West CA | Caretaker and friends of Gndasar-West CA patrolling regarding wildlife habitat conservation and poaching on the territory of Gndasar-West CA | April 2018 and continuous | The Fund/with assistance of local friends of Gndasar-West CA | | Number of illegally killed wild animals | Number of Bezoar Goats and Mouflons in Gndasar-West CA |
| Regulated grassland management | | Regulation of grazing | Cattle access to the pastures in plots S3, S8 and S9 | Not earlier than May 1, 2018 and continuous | Community | | Absence of cattle in the plots S3, S8 and S9 before May 1 of each year on 1317 ha | Improved productivity and biodiversity of grasslands through prevention of trampling and overgrazing. |
| Cattle access to the pastures in plots S2, S4, and S7 | Not earlier than May 15, 2018 and continuous | Community | | Absence of cattle in the plots S2, S4, and S7 before May 15 of each year on 1466 ha |
| Cattle access to the pastures in plots S1 and S6 | Not earlier than June 1, 2018 and continuous | Community | | Absence of cattle in the plots S1 and S6 before June 1 of each year on 1017 ha |
| Cattle access to the pastures in plot S5 | Not earlier than June 15, 2018 and continuous | Community | | Absence of cattle in the plot S5 before June 15 of each year on 1468 ha |
| Cattle access to the pastures in the plots C1, C2, C3, C4 and C5 | No access starting from 2018 and continuous | Community | | Absence of cattle in the plots C1, C2, C3, C4 and C5 starting from 2018 for 7 years on 1897 ha | Cattle free habitats for wildlife, natural succession of habitats |
| Monitoring | | Verification of implementation | Day to day management and coordination, caretaker and friends of Gndasar-West CA presence in the area | May 2018 and continuous | The Fund | | Caretaker work months input per year  Managers work months input per year | Smooth implementation of the Habitat Management Plan  Better prevention of illegal activities (poaching, logging etc.) |
| Collecting impact indicators | Setting up constant plots for summer (post-parturition) and early winter (rutting period) counts of Bezoar goats and Armenian mouflons | August - November 2018 | The Fund with assistance of WWF | | Report on methods plots, observation plots and equipment in the field | Enable monitoring of Bezoar goat and Armenian mouflon population |
| Summer (post-parturition) and early winter (rutting period) counting of Bezoar goats and Armenian mouflons | 2018 and onwards | The Fund | | Annual reports | Demonstrate impact on bezoar goat and Armenian mouflon populations |
| Setting up observation methods and sites for brown bear and leopard | May - November 2018 | The Fund with assistance of WWF | | Report on methods plots, observation plots and equipment in the field | Enable monitoring of animal populations |
| Observation and reporting of brown bear and leopard | 2018 and onwards | The Fund | | Annual reports | Demonstrate impact on populations of target species |

**Annex 5**

**2018-2024 wildlife habitat management map of**

**Gndasar-West CA**

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