III. INDICATORS OF SUCCESS OF OBJECTIVES OF CONSERVATION MEASURES

1. **By 2024 increase the range of Bezoar goat by 35% and the number by 70%.**

The area might harbour some 100 bezoar goats. The expansion of their range outside the Conservation Area depends on absence of poaching, disturbance from military activities, including mining, 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 10-20 Armenian mouflons but these animals can hardly be regarded as residents. The area is typical mouflon habitat, but number of mouflons is far below the habitat capacity for the reasons of poaching, military presence on the border with Nakhichevan and, in less extend, disturbance of mouflon habitat by livestock.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF CONSERVATION MEASURES TO BE CARRIED OUT

1. **Zonation of Shahaponq CA**

Shahaponq CA will consists from Core, and Sustainable use zones:

* The Core zone (2,276 ha) is devoted to wildlife habitat conservation and to protection of flora and fauna and natural processes in the landscape it contains. The Core area has strict protection status.
* The Sustainable Use zone (3,438 ha) surrounds and adjoins the Core areas. The purpose is to increase productivity through sustainable grassland management and to preserve the traditional cultural landscape. It is used for agriculture, environmental education, ecotourism, and applied and basic research, and to support sustainable development.
* In addition, Shahaponq CA is bordering with the State Border Zone (1,307), and Civil Voice NGO and WWF will establish a cooperation with border guards to combat poaching.
1. **Establishment of no-use, no-disturbance zones.**

Core zones of Shahaponq CA (2,276 ha) are to be no-use, no-disturbance zones: in the territory of Arevis Village 1094.4 ha, Brnakot Village – 202.5 ha, Salvard Village – 235,1 ha and Tasik Village – 744 ha (see map in Annex 5).

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

The Core zone of Shahaponq CA is closed for grazing. In the Sustainable Use zone the use of pastures will be regulated to allow sufficient growth of grass in the spring and thus increase the pasture productivity while reducing soil erosion due to overgrazing and trampling (see map in Annex 5):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Open for grazing livestock from May 15  | Plot S2 and S5 | 870 ha |
| Open for grazing livestock from from June 1  | S1; S3 and S4 | 2,568 ha |
| Closed for livestock | Plots C1, C2, C3 and C4  | 2,276 ha |

1. **Anti-poaching control**

The Caretaker service of Shahaponq CA in relation to wildlife management and poaching will cover Core, and Sustainable use zones in full extend. Daily patrolling will be set up through clear patrolling plan and tracking system of Caretakers and vehicles. Civil Voice NGO and WWF will regularly monitor the Caretakers’ service and make adoptive management if it is necessary. At least 5 roadblocks and 10 preventive signs will be set up in the core zone to prevent access of poachers to the main habitats. Meantime, camera traps and on-line cameras will be established in the main habitats.

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 Civil Voice NGO 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 Sisian community for 2018-2024

| ***Purpose***  | ***Objective*** | ***Describtion 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: * 2 Off road vehicles
* Office set
* Uniform
* Road blocks
* Preventive signs
* JPS
* Binoculars
* Photo cameras
* Video-cameras
* Trap-cameras
 | March 2018  | Civil Voice NGO | Presence of technically maintained equipment for habitat conservation  | Thanks to increased technical capacity the conservation measures are implemented. |

| 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 Shahaponq CA | Caretaker and Friends of Shahaponq CA patrolling regarding wildlife habitat conservation and poaching on the territory of Shahaponq CA | March 2018 and continuous | Civil Voice with assistance of local Friends of Shahaponq CA | Number of illegally killed wild animals | Number of Bezoar Goats and Mouflon in Shahaponq CA and administrative territories of Target Villages  |
| Regulated grassland management | Regulation of grazing | Cattle access to the pastures in plots S2 and S5*-* 870 ha | Not earlier than May 15, 2018 and continuous | Community | Absence of cattle in the Sustainable zone before the restricted dates of each year on 3,438 ha | Improved productivity and biodiversity of grasslands through prevention of trampling and overgrazing |
| Cattle access to the pastures in plots S1; S3 and S4 - pastures open for livestock from June1  - 2,568 ha | Not earlier than June 1, 2018 and continuous |
| Cattle access to the pastures in the plots C1, C2, C3 and C4 (Core zone). | No access starting from 2018 and continuous | Community | Absence of cattle in the Core zone on 2276 ha starting from 2018 for 7 years  | Cattle free habitats for wildlife, natural succession of habitats |
| Monitoring | Verification of implementation | Day to day management and coordination, Caretaker and Friends of Shahaponq CA presence in the area | May 2018 and continuous | Civil Voice | Caretaker work months input per yearManagers work months input per year | Smooth implementation of the Habitat Conservation PlanBetter 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  | Civil Voice 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 | Civil Voice | Annual reports | Demonstrate impact on bezoar goat population |
| Setting up observation methods and sites for brown bear and leopard | May - November 2018 | Civil Voice 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 | Civil Voice | Annual reports | Demonstrate impact on populations of target species |

**Annex 5**

**Wildlife habitat conservation map of**

**Shahaponq CA 2018-2024**

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