III. INDICATORS OF SUCCESS OF OBJECTIVES OF CONSERVATION MEASURES

1. **By 2025 increase the range of Bezoar goat by 80% and the number by 150%.**

Currently the area harbours at least some 20 bezoar goats. The expansion of their range outside the Conservation Area depends on absence of poaching and disturbance, including mining, and the availability and productivity of their habitat.

1. **By 2025 secure the presence of resident population in the area, increase the range of Armenian mouflon by 100% and the number by 100%.**

Since early 1990’s, not more than 1-5 Armenian mouflons were occasionally observed in this region, and at present mouflon may be considered as vagrant species, rather than migratory or even resident. The area is a typical mouflon habitat, but number of mouflons is far below the habitat capacity for the reasons of poaching and disturbance of mouflon habitat by livestock.

1. **By 2025 the number of Brown Bear remains constant.**

According to information received from existing trap cameras, the current number of adult bears in the area is between 3 and 5. The mixture of broadleaf forest, juniper woodlands and mountain meadows make the area suitable to bears; however, poaching and forest fires remain major threats to their numbers.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF CONSERVATION MEASURES TO BE CARRIED OUT

1. **Zonation of Zaritap CCA**

Zaritap CCA will consists of core and sustainable use zones (Annex 5):

* 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.
* The Sustainable use zone is used to preserve traditional cultural landscape and support local livelihood, as well as for environmental education, ecotourism, and applied and basic research.

Activities aimed at prevention of forest fires and restoration of areas recently damaged by fires, as well as combat and prevention of poaching in Bezoar goat habitats in state forest (Forest Core zone) are envisaged in line with the MоU signedbetween «Hayantar» SNCO of Forest State Committee and the WWF Armenian Branch.

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

Core zones of Zaritap CCA are to be no-use, no-disturbance zones: in the territory of villages Artavan - 1031 ha and Saravan – 493 ha (see map in Annex 5). The core zones of Zaritap CCA are closed for grazing. Only collection of herbs is allowed.

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

In the Sustainable use zone, the use of pastures will be regulated as to allow sufficient growth of grass in the spring and thus secure pasture productivity while reducing soil erosion due to overgrazing and trampling (see map in Annex 5):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Open for grazing livestock from May 1  | Plot S1  | 630 ha |
| Open for grazing livestock from June 1  | Plot S2 | 3,691 ha |
| Closed for livestock | Plots C1, C2, C2a  | 1,524 ha  |

1. **Anti-poaching control**

In relation to wildlife management and prevention of poaching, the caretaker service of Zaritap CCA will cover Core and Sustainable zones, as well as the Forest Core zone in full extent.

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 «Martiros» 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.

1. **Forest management**

The forest fire of 10-14 August 2017 damaged around 730 ha of broadleaf forest and juniper open woodlands and 510 ha of other forest lands. To avoid such damages in the future and mitigate the fire risks, WWF, in line with the MоU to be signed with the Forest State Committee of the Ministry of Nature Protection will assist «Vayots Dzor Forestry» branch of «Hayantar» State Non Commercial Organization of the Committee through capacity building in terms of provision of fire-fighting equipment, implementation of the forest management plan, improving the protection regime and the sustainable use of timber and non-timber products. A forest rehabilitation plan will be developed in addition to the forest management plan (see map in Annex 5):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Development of forest protection and fire-fighting management plan | Plots FF, FP, FC1, FC2 and F  | 1,094 ha |
| Development of forest rehabilitation management plan | Plot FP | 510 ha |

**Annex 4**

# Wildlife habitat action plan of Zaritap Community Conservation area for 2018-2025

| ***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: * Four wheel drive vehicles
* Office renovation
* Office furniture set
* Office equipment set
* Binoculars
* Photo cameras
* Video-cameras
* Trap-cameras
 | July 2018  | «Martiros» Fund | Presence of technically maintained equipment for habitat conservation  | Thanks to increased technical capacity the conservation measures are implemented. |
| Precautionary measures | Setting up roadblocks and signs | Construction and installation of: * roadblocks
* warning and information signs
 | July 2018 | «Martiros» Fund | Presence of technically maintained roadblocks and signs for habitat conservation | Thanks to increased awareness 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 Zaritap CCA and Forest Core zone | Caretaker and Friends of Zaritap CCA patrolling regarding wildlife habitat conservation and poaching in the territory of Zaritap CCA and Forest Core zone | July 2018 and continuous | «Martiros» Fund with assistance from local Friends of Zaritap CCA | Caretaker time spent (workmonths/yearNumber of environmental violations (poaching, logging) identified and stopped/prevented (6).Number of environmental violations (poaching, logging) identified and reported to the State Authorities (6). | Number of Bezoar Goats and Mouflon in Zaritap CCA and administrative territories of Target Villages  |
| Regulated grassland management | Regulation of grazing | Cattle access to the pastures in plot S1 | Not earlier than May 1, 2019 and continuous | Community | Absence of cattle in the Sustainable use zone before May 1 of each year on 630 ha | Improved productivity and biodiversity of grasslands through prevention of trampling and overgrazing.  |
| Cattle access to the pastures in plot S2 | Not earlier than June 1, 2019 and continuous | Community | Absence of cattle in the Sustainable use zone before June 1 of each year on 3.691 ha |
| Cattle access to the pastures in the plots C1, C2, C2a | No access starting from 2018 and continuous | Community | Absence of cattle in the Core zone starting from 2018 for 7 years on 1,524 ha  | Cattle free habitats for wildlife, natural succession of habitats |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monitoring | Verification of implementation | Day to day management and coordination, caretaker and Friends of Zaritap CCA presence in the area | July 2018 and continuous | «Martiros» Fund | Caretaker work months input per yearManagers work months input per year | Smooth implementation of the Habitat Management 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  | «Martiros» Fund with assistance from 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 | «Martiros» Fund | Annual reports | Demonstrate impact on bezoar goat population |
| Setting up observation methods and sites for brown bear and leopard | July - November 2018 | «Martiros» Fund with assistance from 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 | «Martiros» Fund | Annual reports | Demonstrate impact on populations of target species |

**Annex 5**

**Wildlife habitat management map of**

**Zaritap CCA 2018-2025**

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