

ECF conservation measures: Example of Khachik

Target species and ECF objectives



By 2025 increase the range of Bezoar goat by 30% and the number by 100%

There is a core population of around 200 Bezoar goats (Source: Gnishik Intercommunal Environmental Foundation) in the Gnishik Protected Landscape (PL) conservation area, of which 20 specimens occur in the administrative territory of Khachik Community. The expansion of their range outside the conservation area depends on availability and productivity of their habitat, and absence of poaching.

By 2025 secure at least temporary presence of Mouflon in the area of Khachik

High mountain grasslands above Khachik in the Gnishik Protected Landscape (PL) conservation area are a Mouflon habitat, but Mouflon haven't been observed in the area in the recent years for the reasons of poaching in the past, military presence on the border with Nakhichevan and presence of cattle in the mouflon habitat.

Problems to be addressed:

Availability of habitats for Bezoar goat and Mouflon

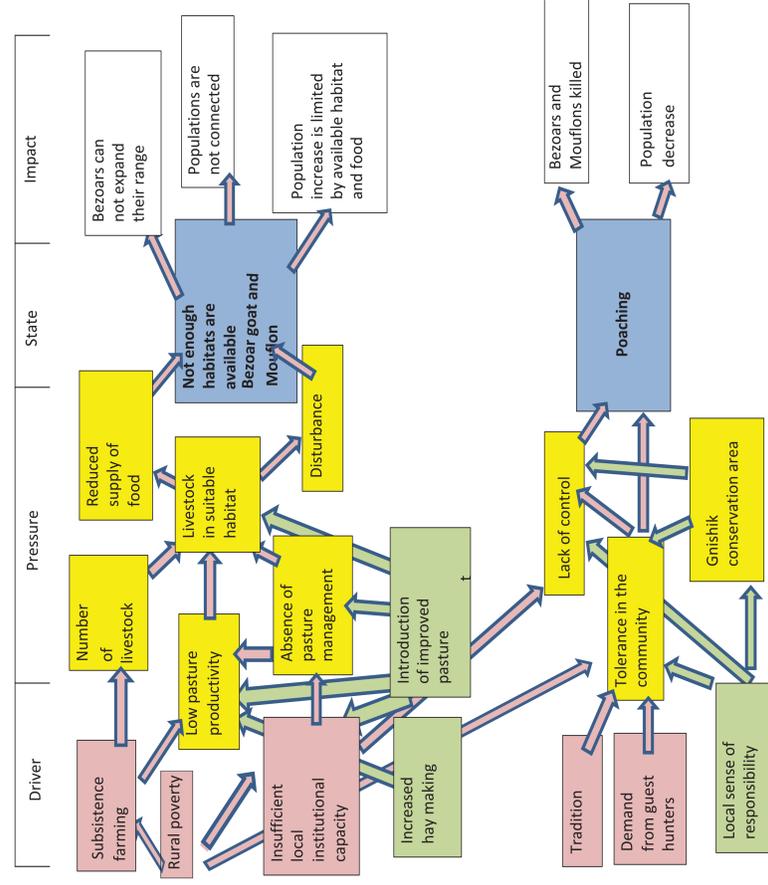
Bezoar goats seek mainly rocky habitats to avoid disturbance, but also depend on the overall grassland productivity within their range. If the degree of disturbance is limited and sufficient carrying capacity is available, it is expected that the Bezoar goat population will expand also along the corridor outside the Gnishik conservation area.

Main Mouflon habitat are open mountain grasslands with limited disturbance by humans or domestic animals. At the moment, Mouflon are not present in the Gnishik PL. Assuming that the impact of poaching and military will be mitigated in the future, Mouflon may reappear in the area if their habitat is not disturbed by extensive presence of cattle.

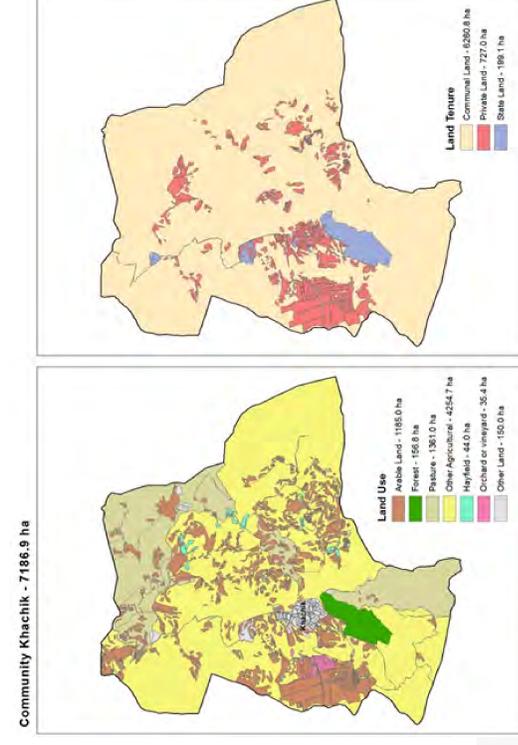
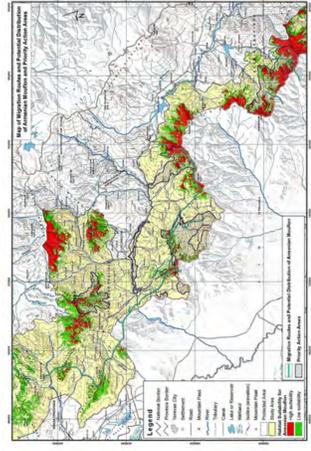
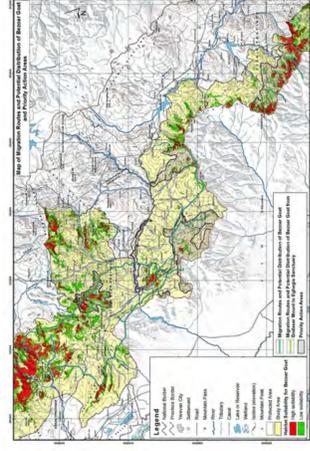
Poaching

Poaching is an important factor for population density of Bezoar goat far below the carrying capacity of the habitat outside the conservation area and disappearance of Mouflon. A regulated and managed regime of grazing implemented by the community with assistance of the Gnishik PL will contribute to lower motivation for poaching among the local population and improve the success of enforcement related to outside poachers.

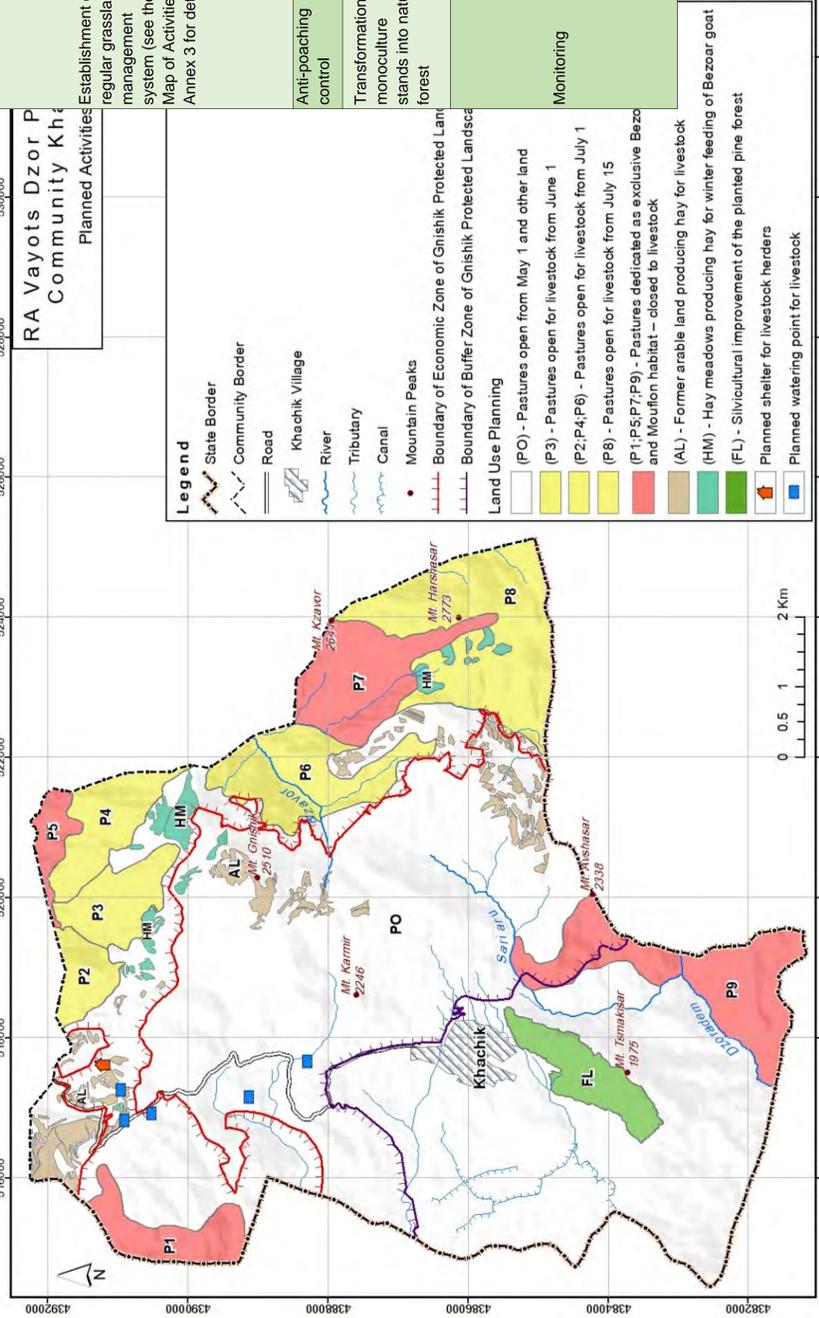
Problem tree



Armenia, South Eastern Lesser Caucasus, Vayots Dzor, Khachik



Wildlife habitat management plan of Khachik community for 2017-2026



Beneficiaries

A trilateral conservation agreement will be signed between the WWF-Armenia, Gnishik Intercommunal Environmental Foundation responsible for management of Gnishik Protected Landscape

Purpose and objectives

The purpose of the Agreement is to provide financial resources to secure ecologically sustainable land use in the Khachik Community within the South-Eastern Lesser Caucasus ecological corridor in Armenia. This is to contribute to the sustainable use of land and of biological diversity without reducing the income of the local rural population.

The objectives of the Agreement are to:

- Maintain high biodiversity in landscapes, in particular improve habitats of Bezoar goat, Armenian Mouflon, Brown Bear and Caucasus Leopard within administrative boundaries of Khachik Community
- Provide the services and coverage of the Gnishik PL rangers within the administrative boundaries of Khachik Community
- Improve the productivity of animal husbandry performed by the village community
- Improve biodiversity and resilience of the planted forest next to the Khachik Village by transformation of monoculture pine stands into natural forest composition.

Investment actions

Purpose	Objective	Description of measures to be carried out	Time
Equipment and pasture infrastructure	Purchase of agricultural equipment	Purchase of tractor Belarus 82.1, mowing-machine KLDZ 21 B4, rakes FP-200, baler DT-165, how 10H-335, sowing machine CTY 4-D	2017 March - April
	Setting up of livestock watering points	Construction of 4.5 (five) livestock watering points, laying of pipelines, earthworks	2017 March-May
	Construction and furnishing of shelter for stockbreeders	Mobile shelter (20 square meters), toilet, sink, stove, furniture	2017 May-August

Long-term actions

Purpose	Objective	Description of measures to be carried out	Time
Production of forage on currently abandoned arable lands	Regular cutting of designated high diversity hay meadows	Planting and sowing of perennial crops grass and clover (not less than 50 ha per year) Harvest of perennial crops (not less than 50 ha), baling and transport of hay to the village Distribution of hay to individual stockbreeders (not less than 50 tons per year) Cutting, drying making haystacks in the field (not less than 40 ha per year)	March - May 2017 and June-September 2017 and continuous
Regulation of grazing	Regulation of grazing	Start of the grazing season July 1, 2018 and June 1, 2018 and July 1, 2018 and August 1, 2018 and continuous	2017 and continuous
Anti-poaching control	Prevent poaching in Khachik Community	Cattle access to the pastures in the plot P3 (see Map in Annex 3) Cattle access to the pastures in the plots P2, P4 and P6 (see Map in Annex 3) Cattle access to the pastures in the plot P5 (see Map in Annex 3) Cattle access to the pastures in the plots P1, P5, P7 and P9 (see Map in Annex 3)	2017/2018
Transformation of monoculture stands into natural forest	Rehabilitation of forest ecosystem to provide ecosystem services for local population	Ranger service in relation to wildlife management and poaching on all the lands of the Khachik Community and the forest lands within the Khachik Community Forest inventory and management plan Thinning of pine plantation to support natural regeneration Establishing recreation infrastructure (forest trails, picknick area...)	2017/2018
Monitoring	Verification of performance indicators	Conduct full-scale and enrichment planning according to the management plan Removing fence when not needed Day to day management and coordination, ranger presence in the area Monitoring and reporting the implementation of established management plan (see Annex 3) Setting up permanent sample plots for monitoring pastures (pastures, meadows and restricted areas) for monitoring species diversity, productivity and carbon storage Monitoring of permanent sample plots Setting up constant plots for summer (post-parturition) and early autumn (post-parturition) and early winter (rutting period counting of bezoar goats) Summer (post-parturition) and early winter (rutting period counting of bezoar goats) Setting up observation methods and sites for mouflon, brown bear, leopard and Mouflon (recording of mouflon, brown bear, leopard and Mouflon inventory) Initial forest inventory Limited sample inventory of the forest	2018 onwards