

## ROADMAP TO THE MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ON THE USTYURT PLATEAU 2025-2030

<i>Result</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Priority</i>
<b>Theme 1: Transboundary conservation of wildlife and its habitats</b>					
<b>Objective 1.1: To establish and promote national and transboundary protected areas and OECMs</b>					
Connected network of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) on Ustyurt.	1.1.1 Conduct feasibility studies for the creation of transboundary protected areas on the Ustyurt Plateau.	At least one feasibility study for a transboundary protected area is conducted and made available to all Parties.	Research and GOs, NGOs, experts and local/regional stakeholders.	2025 – 2030	Medium
	1.1.2 Develop proposals for the creation of national protected areas and OECM to support ecological connectivity on the Ustyurt Plateau.	Proposals developed and submitted to national authorities.	GOs, NGOs, experts and local/regional stakeholders.	2025 – 2030	High
	1.1.3 Promote a coordinated management system for the components of the World Heritage Site Cold Winter Deserts of Turan.	Transnational management concept for the protected areas of the WHS Cold Winter Deserts of Turan is developed and endorsed by all Parties.	GOs, research and NGOs, experts and local/regional/ international stakeholders.	2026 – 2030	High
	1.1.4 Include the Ustyurt State Nature Reserve (Kazakhstan; including the new cluster on the Southern Ustyurt) in the World Heritage Site Cold Winter Deserts of Turan.	Nomination documents prepared and submitted to World Heritage Committee.	GOs, research and NGOs, experts and local/regional/ international stakeholders.	2025 – 2030	Medium
<b>Objective 1.2: To strengthen capacities and management effectiveness of existing protected areas</b>					
Improved management effectiveness of protected areas on Ustyurt.	1.2.1 Assess the effectiveness of protected area management by using available standardized tools (such as METT, IBEX and others).	Management effectiveness evaluation report is prepared for each protected area on Ustyurt.	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions and protected areas management.	2025 – 2030	High
	1.2.2 Based on the assessments in 1.2.1, update or develop management plans, ensure availability of required resources and implement them.	New management plans in place, required resources provided and implemented.	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions and protected areas management.	2025 – 2030	High

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	1.2.3 Build capacity for effective site management.	At least one capacity building workshop per country conducted, involving staff from neighboring countries in case of protected areas located in border areas.	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions and protected areas management.	2025 – 2030	High
	1.2.4 Assess the impact of climate change on the Ustyurt plateau, including climate vulnerability of key wildlife species and, if needed, develop and apply adaptation and mitigation measures to support greater resilience of the ecosystem against climate change.	Assessment available, measures developed and applied, where necessary.	GOs, NGOs, experts, research institutions, and local/regional stakeholders.	2025 – 2030	Medium
	1.2.5 Agree on a biodiversity monitoring approach, including SMART, develop guidelines for biodiversity monitoring and train protected areas staff to use such guidelines.	Guidelines available in national languages and training conducted.	GOs, NGOs.	2025 – 2030	High
	1.2.6 Organize knowledge exchange visits of representatives of the three countries to other regions.	At least one visit organized.	GOs, NGOs, experts, scientific institutions, protected areas management.	2025 – 2030	Medium
<b>Objective 1.3: To improve connectivity between protected areas and wildlife habitats on the Ustyurt Plateau</b>					
Connectivity of habitat for migratory species is improved.	1.3.1 Identify critical movement patterns and migration and routes for transboundary species and evaluate barriers and threats with the use of adequate tools and best available data.	Detailed maps of wildlife routes, barriers and threats are available for transboundary species.	Experts, NGOs, scientists.	2025 – 2026	High
	1.3.2 Expand the use of sensitivity mapping tools (AVISTEP etc.) to yet unassessed areas to inform biodiversity-friendly energy and infrastructure planning.	Detailed sensitivity maps available for all Ustyurt range countries.	Experts, NGOs, scientists.	2025 – 2030	Medium
	1.3.3 Include in the legislative framework the term “ecological corridor” for countries where it does not exist and elaborate a methodology for determining such corridors and legislation that supports effective management of such areas and regulates human activities, based on existing experience in the region.	Methodology, timelines and resources endorsed by the relevant Government authorities.	GOs.	2025 – 2030	High

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	1.3.4 Develop and implement management plans for important corridors including mitigation of barriers to migration and nomadic movement and threats.	Management plans for important habitats outside protected areas are in place.	Relevant GOs, NGOs, scientific experts, land users.	2025 – 2030	High
	1.3.5 Monitor functionality of corridors, evaluate and implement measures to mitigate barriers/threats and adapt them if needed.	Report containing data on corridor functionality, barriers and threats as well as respective mitigation measures are available.	Relevant GOs, NGOs, scientific experts, land users.	2025 – 2030	High
<b>Objective 1.4: To reduce the barrier effect of border fences for transboundary movements of mammals</b>					
Border fences are removed or mitigated and no longer block transboundary movements of mammals.	1.4.1 Support the cooperation between countries to achieve decisions on the removal and/or mitigation of border fences to allow for transboundary movements of various species.	First decisions to ensure free migration are taken.	GOs, Border security units, protected areas, Private sector, CMS, OSCE, GIZ, other UN organizations, IUCN Transboundary Specialist Group.	2025 – 2030	High
	1.4.2 Develop guidelines for border guards and military personnel to monitor wildlife near borders and conduct capacity-building activities.	Guidelines produced. At least one workshop is conducted in each country.	GOs, NGOs, Scientific Institutions.	2025 – 2030	High
<b>Theme 2: Transboundary wildlife monitoring</b>					
<b>Objective 2.1: To improve data exchange, conservation and the quality of monitoring of transboundary wildlife populations</b>					
Transboundary initiatives to monitor key species of Ustyurt at appropriate levels (e.g., sub-regional, national, sub-	2.1.1 Implement the monitoring program developed in 7.1.1.	Monitoring work program implemented.	Protected areas management, NGOs, scientific institutions, experts.	2025 – 2030	High
	2.1.2 Apply camera traps, drones, camera tracking, telemetry etc. to monitor migratory species populations and their habitats.	At least one regional exchange workshop is conducted including training on using such equipment. Monitoring is conducted according to 2.1.1.	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions and protected areas management.	2025 – 2030	High

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national) are in place.	2.1.3 Prepare monitoring reports for transboundary priority areas and share them with CMS CAMI, and other relevant stakeholders.	Monitoring reports available and shared.	Protected areas management, NGOs, scientific institutions, experts.	2025 – 2030	High
	2.1.4 Assess the availability of water resources for wildlife on Ustyurt and create additional artificial water sources for wildlife, if needed.	Assessment report available, additional water resources provided.	NGOs, experts, scientific institutions, protected areas management.	2025 – 2030	High
<b>Theme 3: Outreach and awareness raising</b>					
<b>Objective 3.1: To advance the awareness of the importance of the Ustyurt plateau for biodiversity conservation</b>					
Awareness on the importance of the Ustyurt plateau as a transboundary region for wildlife conservation is increased.	3.1.1 Increase public awareness, including by involving local people and volunteers in monitoring and conservation activities.	Citizen science events organized. Communication materials developed and disseminated.	GOs, scientific institutions, NGOs, mass-media, protected areas management.	2025 – 2030	High
	3.1.2 Ensure media coverage of international events aimed at discussing the negative impacts of fences on migratory species, including on social media.	Events organized and covered by media, including on social media.	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, experts, mass media.	2025 – 2030	High
	3.1.3 Organize and conduct events to raise awareness among the general public at the national and international levels about the importance of the Ustyurt Plateau for biodiversity conservation.	Number of events conducted.	GOs, NGOs, media	2025-2030	Medium
	3.1.4 Hold joint scientific and practical seminars and conferences.	Conduct at least one seminar and publish its proceedings.	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, experts.	2025 – 2030	Medium
	3.1.5 Organize workshops to raise awareness and increase the capacity of government representatives working on linear infrastructure and energy-related infrastructure development of the needs and requirements of migratory species, related legislation and available mitigation measures.	Awareness raising and capacity-building workshops conducted.	GOs, public and private sector stakeholders, IFIs, donors.	2025 – 2030	High

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	3.1.6 Prepare joint publications of scientific and popular science character.	At least two joint publications are published, involving scientists from all Parties.	Experts, scientific institutions, NGOs.	2025 – 2030	High
<b>Theme 4: Law enforcement</b>					
<b>Objective 4.1: To coordinate and strengthen measures to combat illegal and unsustainable take<sup>1</sup> of wildlife, its parts and derivatives</b>					
Measures to combat illegal and unsustainable take and trade of its parts and derivatives on the Ustyurt plateau strengthened.	4.1.1 Conduct research to identify enabling factors, motivations, drivers, extent, amount and trends as well as hotspots of illegal and unsustainable take and trade of wildlife on the Ustyurt Plateau.	Research report produced.	NGOs, scientific institutions.	2025 – 2030	High
	4.1.2 Analyse national legislation to prevent and combat the illegal and/or unsustainable take and trade of wildlife and adapt it to comply with relevant international obligations.	The legislation has been adopted and complies with international obligations.	GOs.	2025 – 2030	High
	4.1.3 Conduct trainings on legislation and judicial processes concerning illegal take and trade of wildlife for relevant agencies and ministries.	At least one training conducted per country.	UN agencies, NGOs, Government authorities, other stakeholders.	2025 – 2030	High
	4.1.4 Consider adjusting the regulatory and legal framework of the Parties in order to prohibit non-selective and inhumane methods of taking, like traps with an arc height of more than 5 cm, loops and others.	Legal frameworks adjusted.	GOs.	2025 – 2030	High
	4.1.5 Promote the use of new technologies, methods and tools for enforcement (SMART, drones etc.).	New technologies introduced.	Research institutions, NGOs, GOs.	2025 – 2030	High

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Article 1(i) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals "Taking" means taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing, deliberate killing, or attempting to engage in any such conduct.

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	4.1.6 Continue measures to strengthen the capacity of rangers and law enforcement personnel to prevent and address illegal take and trade.	Conduct at least one capacity-building workshop for rangers and enforcement personnel per country.	GOs, NGOs.	2025 – 2030	High
	4.1.7 Promote knowledge exchange among protected areas staff on patrolling at national regional and international levels.	Knowledge exchange visits conducted.	GOs, NGOs, protected areas management.	2025 – 2030	High
<b>Theme 5: Regional sustainable development</b>					
<b>Objective 5.1: To ensure development of locally-led ecologically sustainable tourism in order to encourage local communities to conserve species and their habitats</b>					
Tourism involving local communities helps promote the conservation of wildlife and their habitats.	5.1.1 Assess the feasibility of community-based eco-tourism with wildlife observation in specific locations and provide support for respective business development in most promising locations.	Feasibility studies available and investment into local businesses made.	NGOs, tourism companies, private sector.	2025 – 2030	High
	5.1.2 Offer capacity building and financial support for the development of environmentally friendly wildlife watching tourism businesses to local communities.	Environmentally friendly wildlife watching tours offered by local communities.	NGOs, tourism companies, private sector.	2025 – 2030	High
	5.1.3 Include economic benefits for local people and investment of part of the revenue deriving from tourism, in conservation of wildlife and its habitats in tourism development plans at different levels.	Revised tourism development plans at different levels.	GOs, NGOs, tourism companies.	2025 – 2030	High
	5.1.4 Amend legislation on non-extractive use of wildlife, granting managing entities of wildlife management areas and protected areas exclusive rights to offer tourism services in these areas.	Legislation amended.	GOs.	2025 – 2030	High
	5.1.5 Consider amending the legislation to allow for the creation of private protected areas and OECM.	Possibility of amending legislation discussed.	GOs.	2025 – 2030	High
<b>Objective 5.2: To use selected wildlife species in a sustainable way in accordance with national legislation, CMS and CITES</b>					
Selected wildlife species are used in a sustainable way.	5.2.1 Encourage and support, where permitted by national legislation, the management of hunting areas by non-profit public organizations and local communities that will oversee wildlife management and protection in the hunting grounds (okhotkhozyaystvo).	NGOs and local communities are encouraged and supported to manage wildlife and ensure its protection.	GOs, NGOs.	2025 – 2030	High

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	5.2.2 Evaluate on a case-by-case basis ecological sustainability of extractive use of plants and animals to ensure their conservation and base decisions about this on good science and taking into account the legal obligations under existing international frameworks (CMS, CITES etc.), and potential cascading effects on other species.	The results of the assessment of the environmental sustainability of natural resource extraction are available for each specific case.	GOs, NGOs.	2025 – 2030	Medium
	5.2.3 When developing community-based wildlife management approaches involving migratory species, consider the recommendations of the report <a href="#">Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management in Central Asia</a> and the Ten <a href="#">Key Guiding Principles</a> on the involvement of communities in the conservation of migratory species endorsed by CMS COP14.	Community-based wildlife management projects with or without extractive use, based on the Ten guiding principles and selected recommendations of the study.	GOs, NGOs.	2025 – 2030	Medium
<b>Objective 5.3 Minimize harm to biodiversity from the region's economic development</b>					
	5.3.1 Ensure the conservation of migratory species and their natural habitats in the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects.	Conservation of migratory species and their habitats is included, measures for avoiding, mitigation, compensation and monitoring the effectiveness of them are developed.	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, private sector.	2025 – 2030	High

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	5.3.2 Conduct monitoring of the impact of linear and energy infrastructure facilities (wind power plants, overhead power lines, etc.) and other industrial sector activities on biodiversity, and implement measures to mitigate the consequences.	Infrastructure impact assessed and other development of the industrial sector and evaluated in line with relevant endorsed guidance incl. ( <a href="#">Post-construction Bird and Bat Fatality Monitoring for Onshore Wind Energy Facilities in Emerging Market Countries</a> ) and measures are implemented.	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, private sector.	2025 – 2030	High
<b>Theme 6: Reintroduction of cheetah on the Ustyurt Plateau</b>					
<b>Objective 6.1: To coordinate the reintroduction of cheetah on the Ustyurt Plateau</b>					
Reintroduction of cheetah is coordinated.	6.1.1 Conduct a comprehensive feasibility study for the reintroduction of cheetah, including restoration of the prey base, habitat suitability as well as the extension of space available for cheetahs, using cheetahs and prey base from appropriate sources.	Scientifically sound feasibility study with participation of IUCN Cat SG is prepared.	GOs, Scientific Institutions, NGOs, IUCN Cats SG and Conservation translocation Specialist Group, protected areas, captive breeding facilities (EEPs, national breeding facilities).	2025 – 2030	High
<b>Theme 7: Cooperation and information exchange</b>					
<b>Objective 7.1: To enhance national and international cooperation and information exchange</b>					
National and international cooperation and information exchange enhanced.	7.1.1 Establish a task force as required by Article 5 of the MOC to coordinate the implementation of the MOC and the Roadmap, identify the geographical area covered, key species of wildlife on the Ustyurt Plateau, develop and implement a monitoring work programme for transboundary populations, consult on the removal or mitigation of border fences to monitor the impact of infrastructure and other development of the industrial sector.	Meeting on monitoring at least once a year, others as needed.	GOs, NGOs.	2025	High



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	7.1.2 Promote cooperation on the collection, analysis and sharing of data nationally and cross border between agencies and ministries on the number and distribution of key species as well as illegal taking and trade in wildlife to inform coordinated law enforcement actions of relevant agencies.	Data sharing mechanisms on number and distribution as well as on illegal take and trade are created and available for use by relevant agencies of the Signatory States.	GOs, NGOs, Scientific Institutions.	2025 – 2030	Medium
	7.1.3 Exchange information on the fulfillment of obligations under this MOC and Roadmap.	Reports shared.	CMS, GOs, NGOs.	2025 – 2030	High
	7.1.4 Conduct the Second Meeting of the Parties, with participation of relevant experts and potential donors, to monitor and coordinate implementation.	Second Meeting of Parties to Ustyurt MOC conducted, reports on implementation available.	GOs, National Focal Points, experts, donors.	2025 – 2030	High
	7.1.5 Parties to send a letter to the Succow Foundation asking to take over the coordinating role for the implementation of the memorandum and its Roadmap for 2025-2030.	Ustyurt MOC Coordinator appointed and active.	GOs.	2025	High
<b>Objective 7.2: To ensure funding for the implementation of the MOC and its Roadmap</b>					
Funding for activities of MOC and the Roadmap available.	7.2.1 Prepare joint proposals for funding the implementation of measures of the MOC and Roadmap.	At least five joint proposals for funding prepared and submitted to donors. Funding for activities of MOS and roadmap provided.	GOs, NGOs, experts, scientific institutions.	2025 – 2030	High
	7.2.2 Encourage investment from donors and businesses, especially local large industries to support community conservation initiatives.	Investments to support community conservation initiatives available.	GOs, donors, private sector.	2025 – 2030	High