

Project Update: August 2013

We successfully conducted a survey in Central Armenia in from 2nd to 30th August 2013. We visited the following areas and counted wild goats: Khosrov branch of Khosrov NR (the only state-protected wildlife area during the whole trip) – 54 goats; Ardoikar cliffs, Soyanots and Ekhegis Gorge – 166 goats and a bear; Noravank Canyon – 106 goats; Bargushat Range – 49 goats; Nuvadi (Nrnadzor) Village – 133 goats; and finally Ak-Kilisa Valley – 19 goats. For the first time we found old males on low elevations in summer in Khosrov.

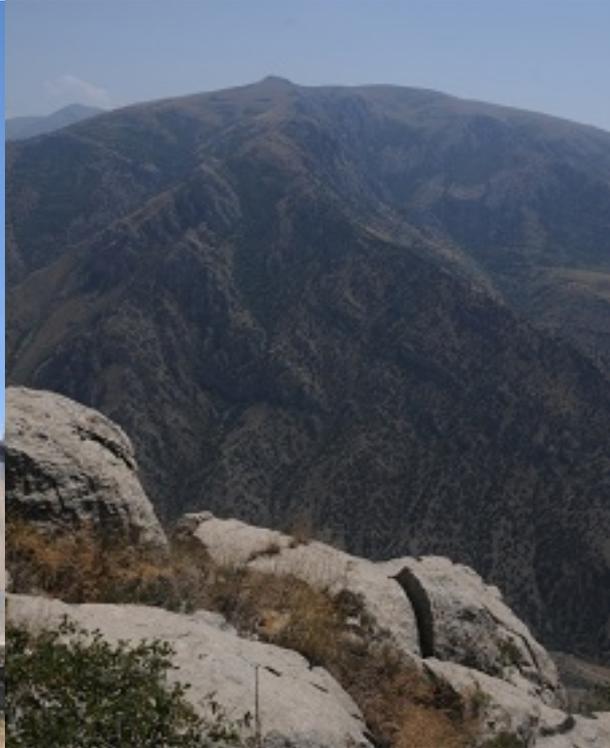
We witnessed further increase in Ardoikar which we had visited in the summers of 2010 and 2012. All these areas are also interesting as boasting lots of historical medieval monuments (see photos by Alexander Malkhasyan, except otherwise stated).



Left: A small red sandstone cliff patch - secretive large male habitat in Khosrov NR. Right: Akh-Kyand massif with griffon vulture nests, wild goat habitat in Khosrov NR.



Left: Ancient agricultural terraces overgrown with tree-like juniper in Khosrov NR. Right: Local warden in Ak-Kilisa Valley.



Left: Medieval church in the foothills of Axkjand. Right: Ardoikar cliffs.



Left: Moving to camping site on Bargushat Range. Right: Nrnadzor Village, goats are all around.



Left: Our camp above Ekhegis Valley and Ardoikar cliffs. Right: Ruins of medieval chapel in Akh-Kyand cliff massif amidst wild goat habitat in Khosrov NR. © P. Weinberg.



Left: Wild goat female with a kid above Nrnadzor Village, Megri Range. Right: Wild goat females' habitat in Khosrow NR.



Left: Wild goat females' habitat on Bargushat Range. Khustup Mt. massif and Megri Range are on the background. Right: Wild goat habitat in Ekhegis Valley.



Wild goat, primarily males', habitat on Bargushat Range