

Project update: December, 2025

Application ID: 49546-1

Intensity, driving factors and mitigation strategies for human leopard (*Panthera pardus*) conflict outside of Moji Game Reserve, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan

This one-year project was initially scheduled to begin in October 2025. However, delays in the transfer of funds to the relevant NGO, the Community Services Program (CSP), along with subsequent clearance issues, postponed the start of field activities in December 2025. As a result, the work plan was adjusted: activities originally planned for October were rescheduled to January, and those planned for November were moved to February. In addition, the school workshop originally scheduled for December was postponed to January due to the unavailability of promotional materials. The remaining activities will proceed as planned on a monthly basis until September/early October 2026. A questionnaire was initially designed and later finalized following discussions with the supervisor, team members, and the Director of the Wildlife and Fisheries Department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Field surveys were carried out between 26 December 2025 to 1st January 2026 in seven selected villages: Kai Nar, Bat-Khaiteer, Kaiyan, Sharian, Seyri, Upper Sundri, and Sain Bagh. Interviews were conducted with household members who had experienced livestock or dog depredation by the common leopard (*Panthera pardus*; Fig. 1). In total, 34 adult respondents, including both men and women aged 18 years and above, were interviewed (Fig. 2). Signs of common leopard presence, such as fecal pellets, were recorded (Fig.3). Photographs of injured or killed livestock were also collected where remains were found (Fig. 4; Fig. 5). It was documented that an adult leopard was captured by the local community in Bat-Khaiteer village in 2020 and was subsequently rescued by the Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Muzaffarabad, and released into the Moji Game Reserve forest. Additionally, areas frequently used by common leopards within human-dominated landscapes were photographed. These areas consist mainly of pine forests, originally planted by the Forest Department, which now provide hiding cover for wild animals (due to their mature growth and closed canopy cover) near pasturelands, thereby increasing the vulnerability of unattended livestock (Fig. 6).

Overall, the study revealed a high and steadily increasing intensity of human-leopard conflict over the past 5–6 years, coinciding with a rise in the leopard population in the area. According to local residents, nearby villages experience even higher levels of conflict, suggesting that a greater number of depredation cases may be expected in those areas. From 2020 to 2026, multiple cases of livestock and dog depredation were reported (Table 1). Overall, the local community exhibited predominantly negative attitudes toward common leopard conservation. There were no active compensation schemes, nor had any compensation been provided by government agencies or NGOs. Consequently, many community members supported killing leopards, viewing them as a serious threat due to livestock depredation and the perceived risk of attacks on humans.

Table 1: Reported cases of livestock depredation in the area from 2020 to 2026

	Goats (killed)	Goats (injured)	Cows/ Ox (killed)	Dogs (killed)
No. of animals	61	4	1	42



Fig. 1 A common leopard was captured at night along a road within the study area

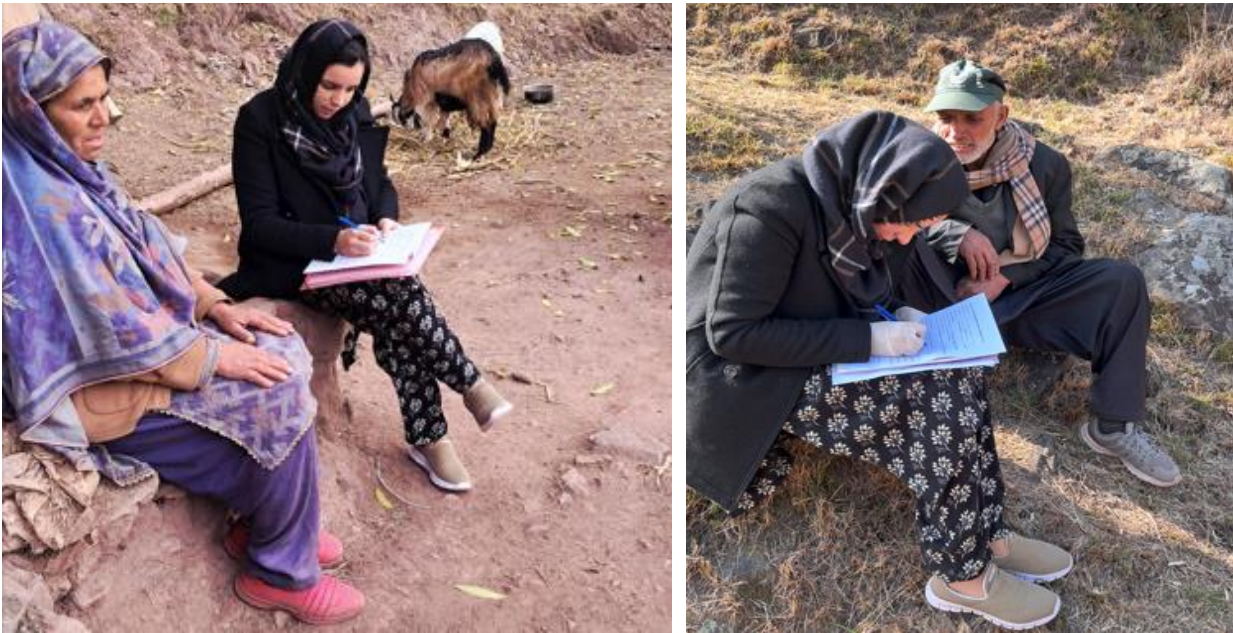


Fig. 2 Questionnaire surveys were conducted, and data were collected from affected local residents



Fig. 3 Fecal pellets of a common leopard containing livestock hair



Fig. 4 A goat injured by a common leopard



Fig. 5 Dead remains of a goat, killed by a common leopard



Fig. 6 Rehabilitated pine forest providing shelter and hiding cover for wild animals, including the common leopard, within the pastureland