

Reintroduction of the goitered gazelle in Kyrgyzstan



NABU supports a new reintroduction project for the endangered goitered gazelle and invites parties interested in cooperation to get in touch.

Background

The goitered gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa* is an Asian species of gazelle and, of all the species of the genus, penetrates the farthest north. Despite its large range, its population has declined drastically in the last 20 years. The species is classified as endangered in the IUCN Red List. The major threats to the goitered gazelle are poaching and habitat destruction due to industrial development, agricultural activities, and livestock grazing. Its conservation requires the restoration of populations in parts of its former range where suitable habitats still exist.

Reintroduction project

In Kyrgyzstan, the species has not been recorded in the wild since 2007 and is considered regionally extinct. As part of the reintroduction project, a new stable population is planned to be established at Lake Issyk-Kul by 2030. In 2021, a species-appropriate enclosure was created, and the first 15 young animals were brought from the “Jeyran” breeding station in Uzbekistan.



Photos: Transport of the goitered gazelles to Kyrgyzstan in 2022.

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In cooperation with:



ARGALI
FOUNDATION



Further information:

<https://en.nabu.de/goitered-gazelle-project>

In 2022, the enclosure was expanded from 0.25 hectares to an area of approximately twelve hectares, and twelve more goitered gazelles were transported to Kyrgyzstan. As poaching is one of the biggest threats to the species, the reintroduction project is accompanied by educational work. The first release is planned for 2026.

Project partners

The reintroduction project is implemented by two Kyrgyz conservation NGOs, Argali Foundation and Ilbirs Foundation. Both NGOs have been partner organisations of NABU for several years and have the necessary expertise and experience in international project work. The project is coordinated and scientifically accompanied by Askar Davletbakov, PhD, Head of the Vertebrate Department at the Institute of Biology of the National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan.

About NABU

NABU is the oldest and, with more than 900,000 members and supporters, the largest environmental association in Germany. One focus of NABU's international commitment is project work in Central Asia, especially in Kyrgyzstan, where NABU has been active for more than 20 years. NABU's international species conservation programme includes the snow leopard, the striped hyena, the saiga antelope, and, since 2022, the goitered gazelle.



Photo: Askar Davletbakov (middle) at the opening of the enclosure for goitered gazelles in October 2021.