

Brief information about the project

Name of the project	AP26199955 «Study of the Kazakh people's attitude to the conservation of "living monument" and biodiversity in wildlife from the viewpoint of ethno-anthropozoology, legal ethnology»
Relevance	It is the first project to study the relationship between "man and nature" from the viewpoint of ethnology, anthropology, zoology, and legal ethnology, considering "wildlife" representatives as "living monuments". The research is carried out theoretically and practically, it consists of a group of experienced and young specialists of ethnographer, zoologist, geoarchaeologist, paleozoarchaeologist, legal scientist.
Purpose	Ethno-anthropozoological, legal ethnological study of Kazakh people's attitude to preservation of "living monuments" and biodiversity in wildlife from historical eras to present, changes and preservation of folk knowledge in natural science over centuries, achieving result via processing of historical-ethnographic, ethno-folkloric, ethnolinguistic data, consideration from viewpoint of heritage of intangible culture.
Objectives	- preservation of mythical, sacral images of "wildlife" representatives in Kazakh memory, attribution of totemic-cult character of wild animals from ancient religions to Islam. - preservation of indigenous habitat of extinct Turan tiger, migration routes, features of folk knowledge for tiger hunting, skin processing, ethnographic/archeological artifacts about tigers, preservation of information related to hunting "tiger traps", attribution of skin products/stuffed/ in museum collections. - mountain leopard - irbis; leopard, lynx: hunting, fur processing, ethno-folkloric/etymological data analysis. - etymology assessment using in household, processing of skins, setting "stone-corral" trap for wild horses as tarpan, onager (Przewalski horse/kertargy/kerkulan) that fell victim of avid hunting in historical periods due to economic, social, ethno-medical needs of their skin, body parts, meat, milk. - to analyze animals of great socio-economic, ethno-medical importance in the form of hunting and life, with regulated number, limited permission is granted or included in "Red Book": argali, deer, roe deer, gazelle, saiga, antelope; methods of hunting, scope of use, need for meat, milk, fat, skin; orteke-melody/dance; habitats, migration routes of deer, gazelle, antelope; ways of migration, breeding, calving, folk education related to natural practices; significance of rituals and superstitions related to these wild animals, regional features of setting trap "sand-fence-corral" among Arys-kum/Dariya people. - to explore folk knowledge of the Kazakhs-ancient Kazakhs about boar: ritual use of boar bones, consumption of boar meat, preservation of boar traps, analysis of onomastic, anthroponymic, folklore data related to boar.

	- study of preservation of Kazakh-ancient Kazakhs knowledge about bears: ethno-medical knowledge on the history of Kazakh dance “bear dance”, skin, body parts, bones; methods of hunting bears, types of “bear traps”. - fox, corsac, badger: recognition of den, hunting, processing of skin, use of badger oil in medicine. - domesticated wildlife representatives: Nagorno-Altai, Mongolian Altai, Kyrgyzstan, Raiymbek District of Almaty region on the border with Kyrgyzstan, yak breeding into traditional business of mountain Kazakhs in Raiymbek region, processing and using yak meat, milk, wool, skin; traditional concepts of artificial hybridization of yak and Kazakh cattle; methods and necessity of hybridization of argali and Kazakh sheep in the Kazakh Altai. - folk knowledge and skills related to snakes: use of snakes in ethnomedicine, extraction of skulls, analysis of folk knowledge of snake charm. - marmot, gopher, beaver: habitat, folklore data, use of skins, types of “rodents traps”, preservation, refuse to use.
Expected and achieved results	The expected outcomes cover comprehensive areas such as the scientific productivity of the project, publication activity, training of personnel, intellectual property, dissemination of research results, and their socio-scientific impact. During the first reporting period, some of these indicators have been partially achieved, with priority given to the formation of the core scientific base and empirical materials. First, although the expected outcomes related to international publications have not been fully achieved, significant progress has been made. While at least 2 articles in high-ranking journals indexed in Web of Science/Scopus were planned, 1 article at the Scopus/Web of Science level (published in the journal Science) has been produced during the reporting period. This indicates the high scientific potential of the project; however, further work is required to meet the quantitative targets. In addition, in accordance with the plan to publish at least 4 articles in journals recommended by the CQASE, currently 1 article has been published, indicating that this target is at an initial stage of implementation and that publication activity needs to be intensified in subsequent stages. From a scientific perspective, a substantial empirical and source base has been formed within the project. Archival, field, petroglyphic, ethno-archaeological, and ethnozoological materials have been systematized and digitized into a digital archive. As a result of expeditions conducted in several regions of Kazakhstan (Almaty, Zhetysu, Mangystau) and abroad (Mongolia, Turkey), unique data have been collected and prepared for introduction into scientific circulation. This, in turn, provides a solid substantive foundation for the planned collective monograph and scientific publications.

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Usage	Humanities, Natural sciences faculties of universities of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Regional inspections of forestry and animal protection; UN Kazakhstan Biodiversity Conservation Association; National nature parks; State natural threats (zoological); all museums of historical and local history, comprehensive direction; regional culture departments; Mongolia “Mongolian Altai” National Reserve; Bayan-Olgey regional administration.
Priority compared to real-world alternatives	No
List of publications with links to them	Sala R., Deom J-M. et. al. Genomic evidence for the Holocene codispersal of dogs and humans across Eastern Eurasia. Science, 13 November 2025 https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adu2836 Sapatayev, S., & Kuralova, Z. (2025). Tradition of Burial of Horses in Early Iron Age Cemeteries of Kazakhstan. Asian Journal «Steppe Panorama», 12(4), 1221–1234. https://doi.org/10.51943/2710-3994_2025_12_4_1221-1234
Patents	No