

Project Update: January 2014

Camera traps which were set in May-June 2013 in the Eastern Kazakhstan were checked in September. The wild cats researcher from Uzbekistan was invited to participate the work in order to be trained in camera trapping. During this field work we also interviewed local people and survey new territories. Unfortunately Pallas' cats were not photographed by cameras. Some cameras were repositioned and all of them left for autumn and winter period. Among animals captured by camera traps were marbled polecat (*Vormela peregusna*, VU, IUCN), argali (*Ovis ammon*, NT, IUCN) and stone marten (*Martes foina*, LC, IUCN; Red Data Book of Kazakhstan).

The art contest on Pallas' cat among schoolchildren will be continued till the end this year. The exhibition of best works and award ceremony will be organised in the beginning of 2014.

Our preliminary suggestions on new protected areas for Pallas' cat conservation in Kazakhstan were given to official persons responsible for elaborating the scheme of protected areas network in Kazakhstan for following discussion.



Anna is checking the camera and changing batteries in it in the Mashan Mountains. Photo by Masha Gritsina



The herder is reporting about sightings of wild cats and other animals. Photo by Masha Gritsina



The Mongolian pika is one of main preys of Pallas' cat in the Northern Balkhash Lake territory. Photo by Anna Barashkova