

# MOUNTAINS OF TAJIKISTAN

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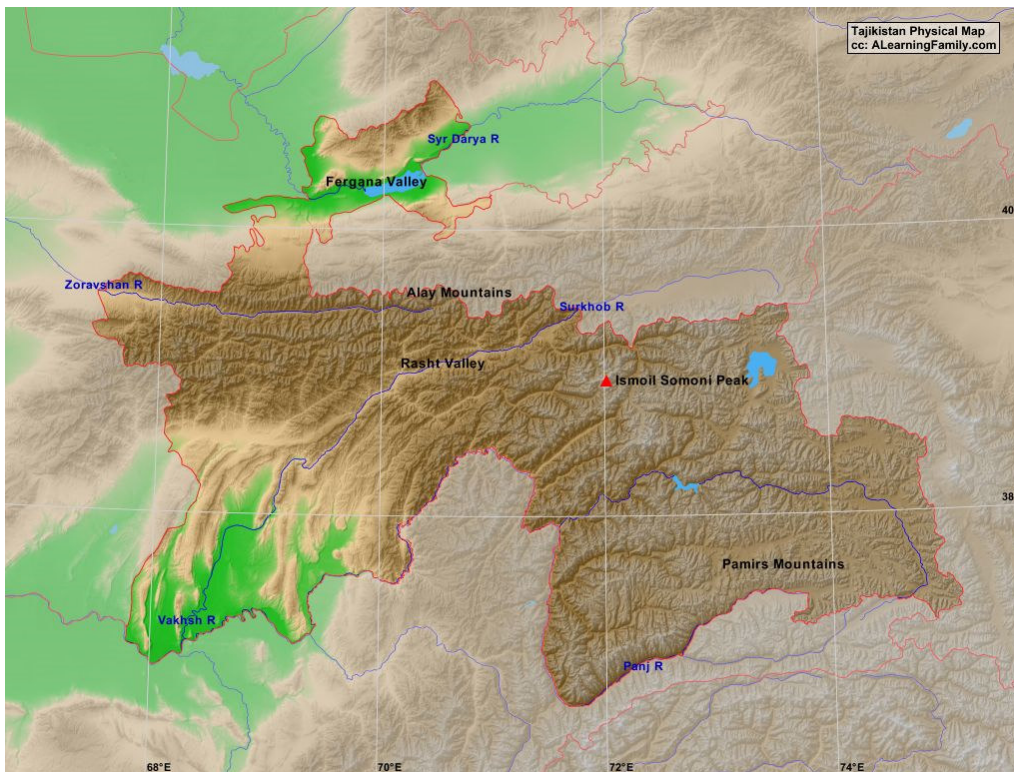




# FEW WORDS ABOUT MOUNTAINS OF TAJIKISTAN

143,100 square kilometers

93% of Tajikistan's terrain is comprised of mountains



Mountains of Tajikistan are currently considered as a biodiversity hotspot by Conservation International, and include a rich combination of endemic species of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibian and freshwater fishes.

Glaciers occupy about 6% of the total country area. These glaciers form an important function by retaining water, controlling flows and regulating the climate.

# **MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS OF TAJIKISTAN PROVIDE WITH:**

- Fresh water & Hydro energy
- Raw materials
- Grazing and fodder for livestock
- Habitats for plants and animals
- Climate and air quality
- Medical plants, food
- Wood for energy and construction
- Recreation

# Primary drivers of change in mountain ecosystems of Tajikistan

## Climate change

The long-term effects of climate change pose a threat to wild nature in the mountains of Tajikistan, both directly as an independent cause of disruption and change and indirectly in combination with other threats.

## Overexploitation of ecosystems

Energy shortages in mountain areas have led to the cutting of trees and shrubs for fuel.

- Overgrazing of pasturelands
- De-vegetation and de-forestation
- Overhunting
- Poaching
- Overfishing

## Habitat change

Manmade habitat modifications is yet another important driver of mountain ecosystem changes in Tajikistan. A significant amount of land is being converted for agricultural use in foot-hills and new structures are being constructed along the gorges and rivers such as Hydro-power plants and roads.

# Snow Leopard – Human Conflict

Mountain communities living in close proximity with snow leopard often find themselves in conflict over natural resources as well as space to live.



More than

30

Cases of attack in the last 2  
years

474 +

Sheep and Goat killed





Snow Leopard is a flagship species of the mountains of Tajikistan. It preys mainly on mountain ungulates such as Markhor goat, Ibex, Marco Polo sheep and marmots. Snow leopard benefit mountain ecosystems in several ways.

- It has an effect in regulating populations of mountain ungulates
- It also benefits other carnivores, which consume the leftovers of its kill

# VANISHING TREASURES

PROTECTING ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN SPECIES

Understanding of climate change impact on snow leopard

Increase communities' resilience to climate change and to promote alternative livelihoods

Integrate climate-smart measures into conservation planning

Provide recommendations to the decision makers on smart management plans



Functioning mountain  
ecosystems are key to  
future snow leopard  
conservation

Thank you!