

## Ms. Sevinj Sarukhanova



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Ms. Sevinj Sarukhanova boasts a rich 15-year career in international governmental and non-governmental development initiatives. Her expertise spans nature conservation, sustainable natural resource management, youth engagement, eco-tourism, agriculture, and biodiversity. Ms. Sarukhanova has excelled in collaborating with major organizations such as the World Bank, BirdLife, NABU, GIZ, WWF, UNDP, and the European Union, showcasing her exceptional communication skills while working closely with government bodies and local communities.

In 2007-2013, Ms. Sarukhanova worked for Azerbaijan Ornithological Society, contributing to and managing projects focused on conserving endangered bird species, establishing Important Bird Areas for Azerbaijan, developing Young Birdwatcher's clubs in the country, and raising awareness among local communities and youth about nature protection.

Ms. Sarukhanova continued her impactful work with nature conservation projects at World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Azerbaijan from 2013 to 2017. She played a key role in various projects focused on the protection of endangered species, sustainable management of natural resources, protected areas, and water management. During this period, she contributed significantly to developing and implementing conservation programs for rare and endangered animal species, including habitat modeling for gazelles and leopards, as well as population restoration efforts.

In her role as an Advisor at German International Cooperation (GIZ) from 2018 to 2022, Ms. Sarukhanova focused on developing and executing capacity-building strategies and programs for Biodiversity Programs. She supervised the development and implementation of Training of Trainers on sustainable natural resource management and environmentally friendly agriculture. As a project gender focal point, she facilitated the establishment of a local rural women's group, fostering women's economic empowerment through the development of agricultural businesses and market access.

Since 2023, Ms. Sarukhanova has played a key role in coordinating capacity-building activities for the "National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change" project, funded by the Green Climate Fund and executed by UNDP. In this capacity, she has contributed significantly to strengthening the capacities of decision-makers, technical experts, and local communities through a variety of training sessions and capacity-building events focused on climate change adaptation.

Her contributions also extend to significant involvement in developing management plans for Emerald sites, and publishing the third edition of the Red Book of Azerbaijan.

Alongside her professional roles, Ms. Sarukhanova is a Ph.D. candidate at Baku State University. She developed and taught education courses on "Animal Ecology," "The Animal Kingdom," and "Ecology and Rational Use of Nature" for master and bachelor students at Baku State University in the Ecology and Soil faculty from 2014 to 2020.

Ms. Sarukhanova received a DAAD Scholarship and conducted research under her scientific project "Understanding Habitat Selection and Distribution of Goitered Gazelles (*Gazella subgutturosa*) in the Southern Caucasus" at Humboldt University in Berlin in 2017. She is an active member of the IUCN Antelope Specialists Group.

She holds a Project Management Professional (PMP®) certification, highlighting her commitment to project management excellence.

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9. T. Kuemmerle, B. Blehly, H. Bluhm , A. Ghoddousi, A. Heidelberg, S.Sarukhanova, N. Zazanashvili. (2018). Identifying priority areas for restoring large mammal populations in the Caucasus Ecoregion. 5th European Congress of Conservation Biology. Jyväskylä. Finland.
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