

Practical experiences of designing and implementing a comprehensive biodiversity mitigation strategy

Lydian committed to:

- ▶ **Avoid some critical habitat** for Endangered alpine plant *Potentilla porphyrantha*, protecting approximately 30% of the plants and allowing for future population recovery/ recolonisation of restored mine pits.
- ▶ **Set-aside to:**
 - ▶ Preserve species-rich **natural vegetation** to act benchmark and provide propagules for future restoration.
 - ▶ **Protect habitat for Red Book species associated with natural habitat** eg breeding dens for brown bear
- ▶ **Minimise footprint** through locational adjustments eg haul road and limit impacts eg bird flight diverters.
- ▶ Support a comprehensive research programme focusing on the ecology of *Potentilla porphyrantha*, its population dynamics and restoration requirements (2 PhD programmes).
- ▶ Model timeline to Net Gain and adjust restoration activities accordingly.
- ▶ Offset residual impacts on natural habitat: new National Park and measures in Park Management Plan to enhance extent and quality of natural habitat commensurate with losses due to mining. A habitat classification was developed to allow losses and gains to be quantified.

Rare plant research and restoration

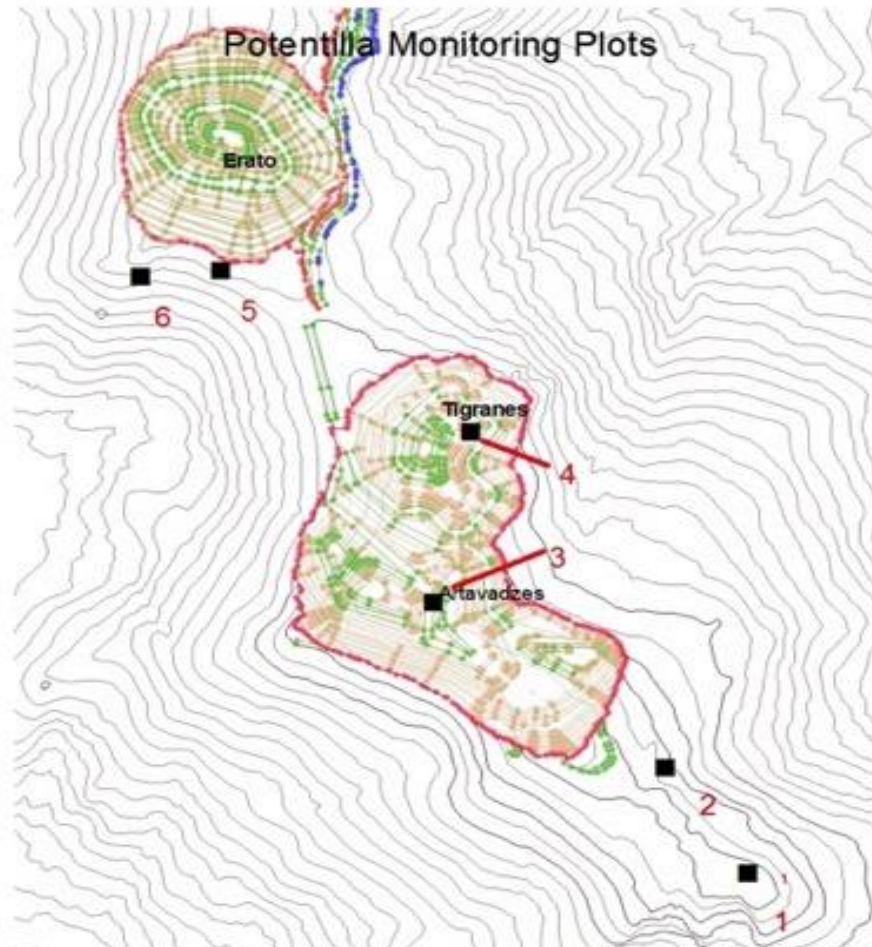


- 2 PhD programmes
- Partnership with Institute of Botany
- Follow up by Ministry of Nature Protection

Unexpected morphological traits in altered habitat



Potentilla monitoring



Monitoring based on expected effect distances and includes locations expected to be outside them, including the Set-Aside.

Extensive surveys

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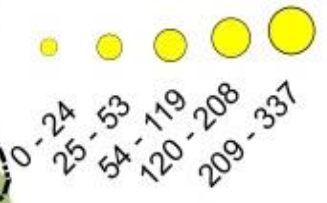


Key drivers: national Red List,
national Mining Code, EBRD PR6

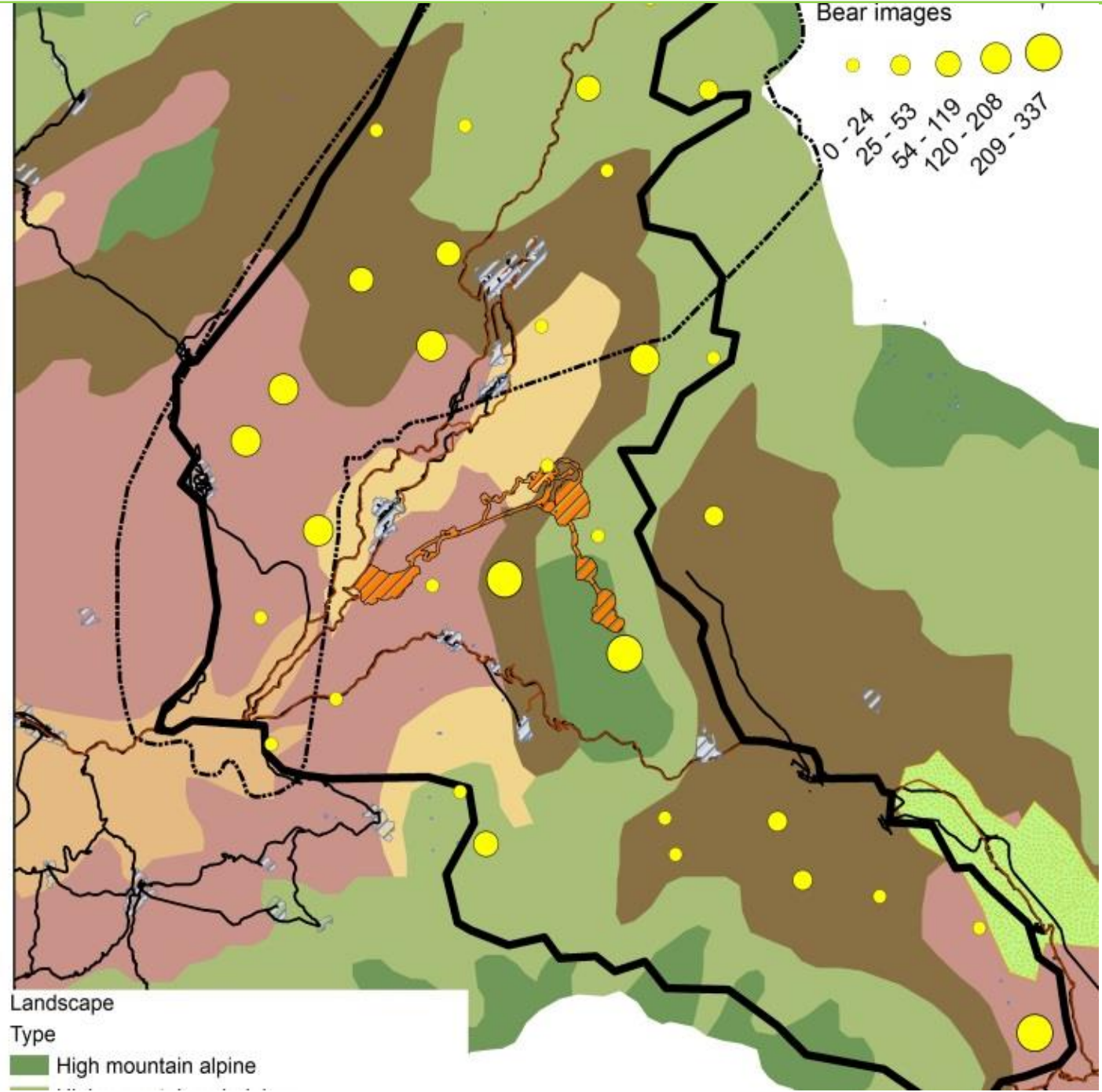
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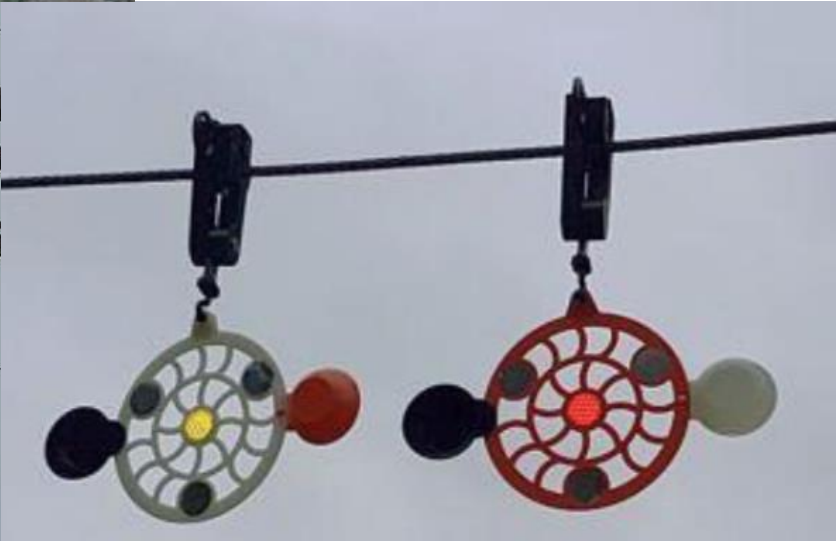
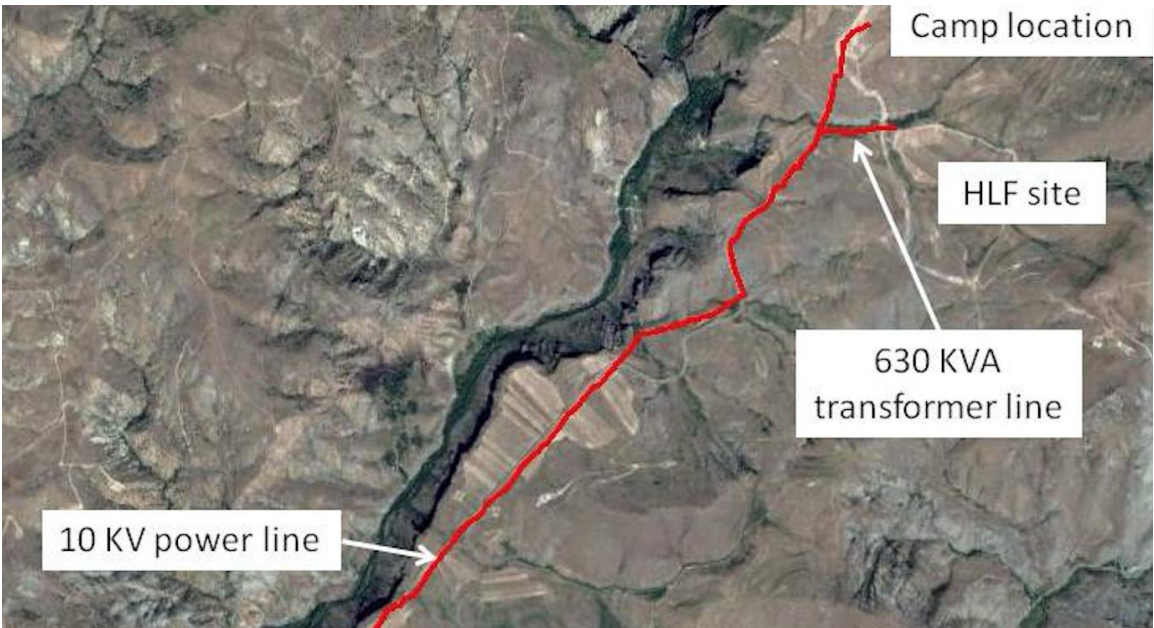
Bear images



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Landscape Type
High mountain alpine



From the perspective of wildlife...

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- ▶ Requirement to demonstrate absence of alternatives resulted in mine footprint being removed from KBA
- ▶ Requirement to provide assurance of NNL/NG forced set-aside
- ▶ NNL/Net Gain requirement resulted in significant offset project worth at least 3.5 million us \$



From the company's perspective:

- ▶ Capacity building on modern environmental management: *“the first time local biodiversity and social NGOs had a chance to work on a project implementing international standards”*.
- ▶ Capacity building for government agencies: *“interaction with international experts around PSs and PRs raised awareness of international expectations and norms. This even resulted in changes to Armenian legislation eg introducing the concept of set-asides and establishing procedures for endangered plant species translocation”*.
- ▶ Quality of public and NGO debate: *“Previously the rhetoric was around stopping mining, while today there is a visible shift towards requiring responsible practices instead”*.
- ▶ Raising the bar: *“other Armenian Projects have commissioned additional biodiversity studies from local institutes”*.

independent scrutiny and
expert advice has added value

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