

# 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

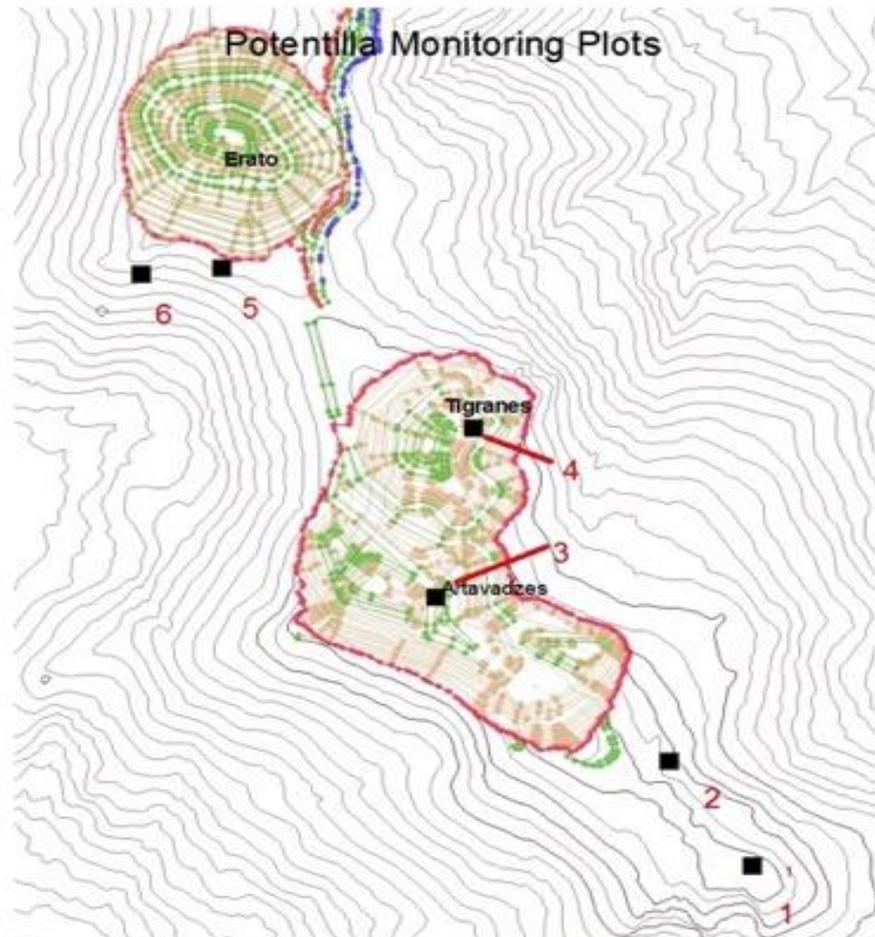


- 2 PhD programmes
- Partnership with Institute of Botany
- Follow up by Ministry of Nature Protection

# 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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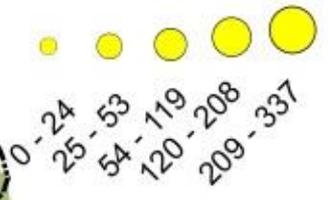


Key drivers: national Red List,  
national Mining Code, EBRD PR6

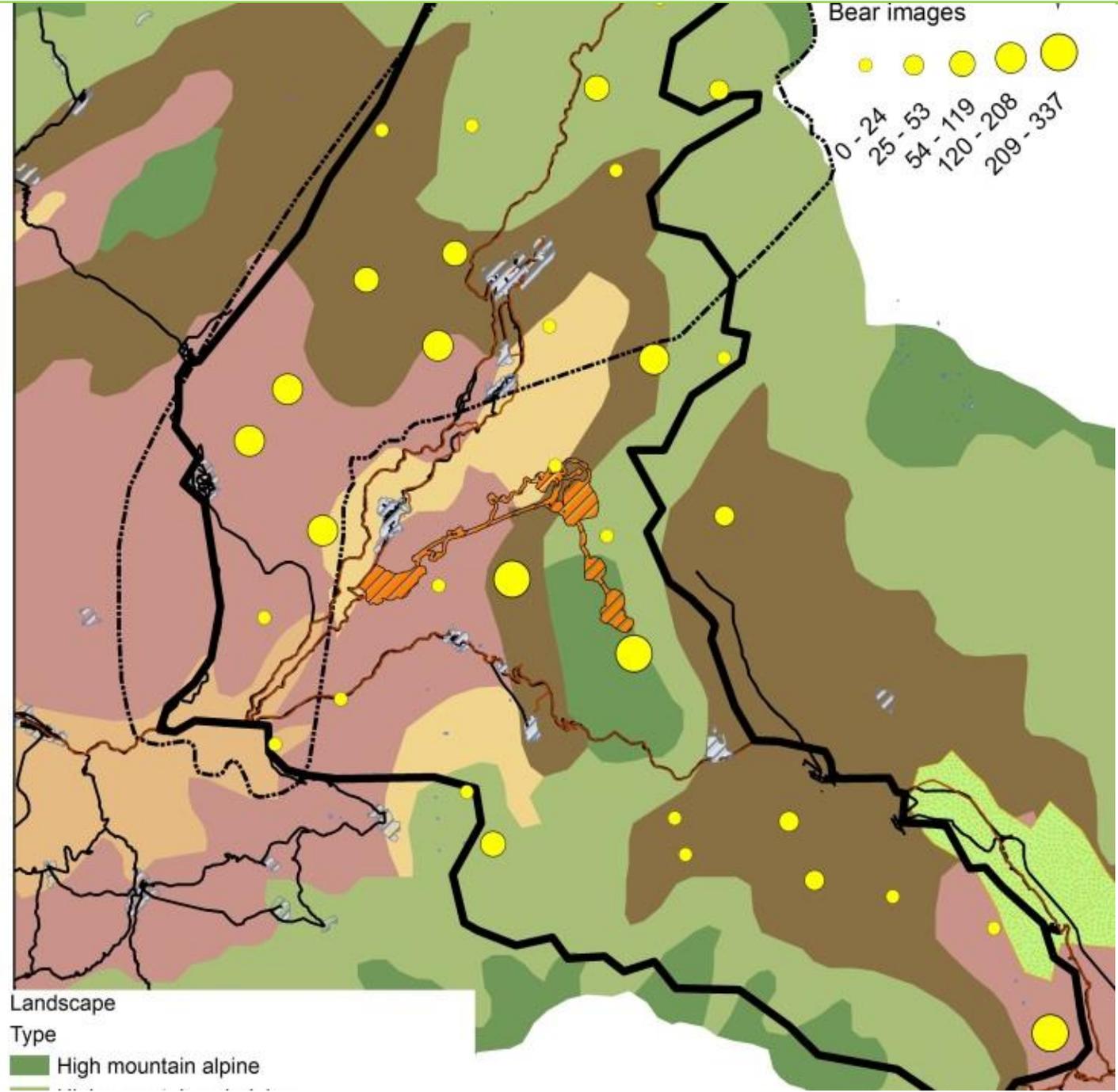
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Bear images

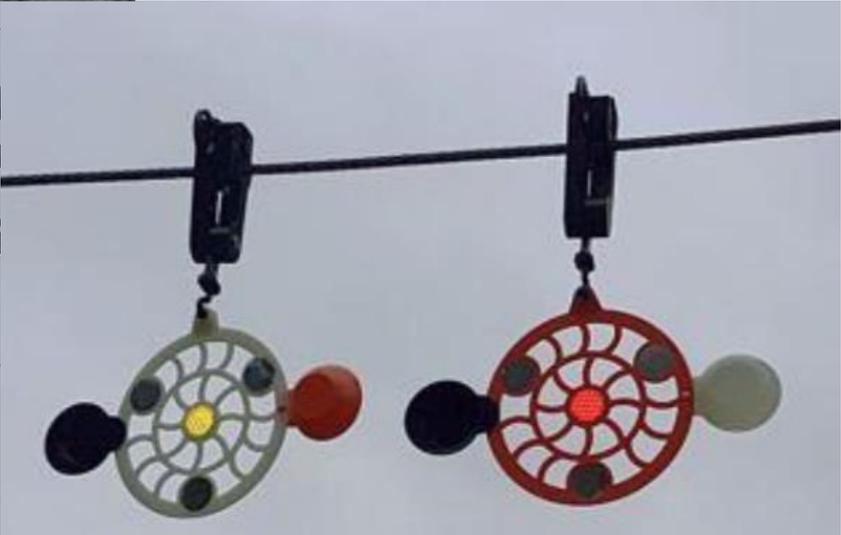
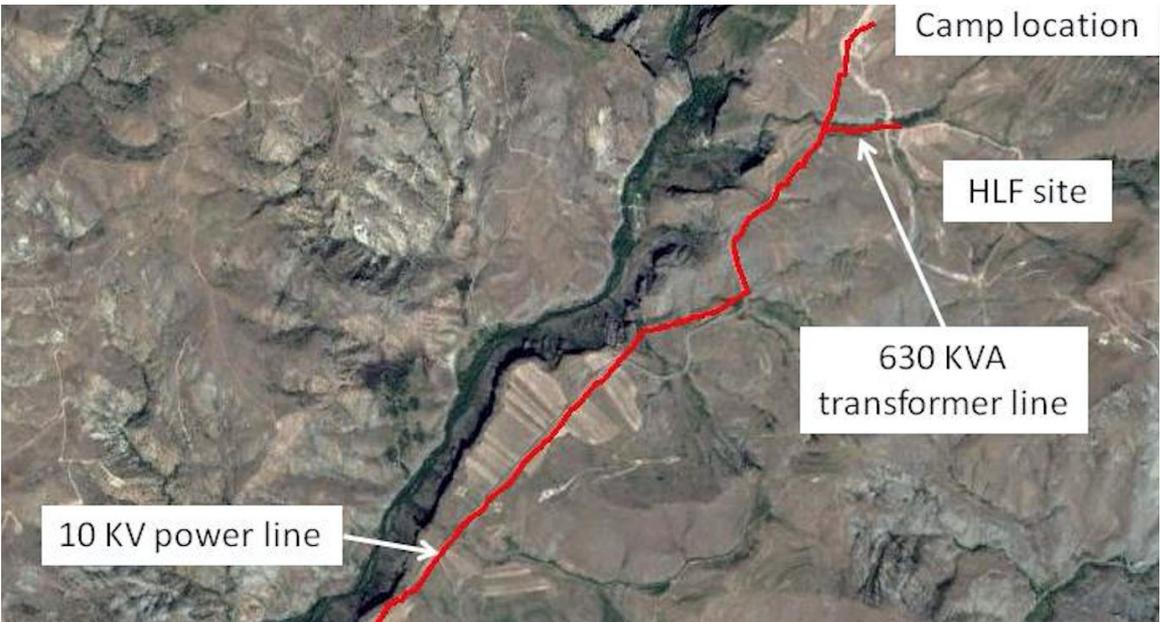


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Landscape  
Type

- 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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