



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Promoting local archaeozoological research in Uzbekistan: Collaborative Initiatives and Educational Developments

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## Abstract

Recent years have seen an increase in archaeozoological studies in Uzbekistan largely led by foreign specialists as part of international projects. However, this discipline remains underdeveloped locally, mainly due to the lack of academic training and laboratory facilities for faunal remains analysis.

In response, the National Museum of Natural History of Paris, in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology of Samarkand, has launched several initiatives to sensitize local archaeologists to the importance of archaeozoology. These initiatives include the organization of a series of workshops dedicated to archaeozoological issues for archaeologists and the diffusion of didactic materials regarding the collect of faunal remains (both macrofauna and microfauna) on the field. In parallel, a new course for master students entitled "Introduction to archaeozoology" has been set up at the Silk Road University of Samarkand, including fieldwork to give students practical experience. The creation of an osteological reference collection to support this teaching is currently underway.

These initiatives encourage local archaeologists to collect bones on the field, incorporate faunal analysis into their research, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and contributing to a more comprehensive interpretation of past human-animal interactions. They also emphasize gender inclusivity by actively promoting the involvement of women in the field.

## Keywords

Uzbekistan, Archaeozoology, Academic training, International collaboration, Gender inclusivity

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