

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Gigiri (Kenya), 10-20 April 2000

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Quotas for species in Appendix I

MARKHOR

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Introduction

2. This report covers the use of annual export quotas for *Capra falconeri* (markhor) granted to Pakistan at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Harare, 1997) under the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.15.

Marking of hunting trophies exported under quota

3. In paragraph c) of Resolution Conf. 10.15 the Conference of the Parties recommends that the Management Authority of a State of import allow the import of markhor hunting trophies in accordance with this resolution only if each trophy has a self-locking tag attached, which indicates the State of export, the number of the specimen in relation to the annual quota and the calendar year to which the quota applies, and if the same information as is on the tag is given on the export document. The Secretariat is not aware that any problems have been experienced in the implementation of this recommendation.

Reported exports

4. In paragraph e) of Resolution Conf. 10.15, the Conference of the Parties recommends that the Management Authority of Pakistan submit to the Secretariat, by 31 March of each year, a special report on the status of *Capra falconeri*. This report should include the population status and the number of hunting trophies exported during the previous quota year. Pakistan may also include details of the permit numbers, the identification numbers of the tags attached to the trophies, the countries of destination and the numbers of the import permits.
5. Resolution Conf. 10.15 also directs the Secretariat to recommend to the Parties to suspend imports of markhor hunting trophies if Pakistan does not comply with this reporting requirement, but only after having ascertained why the special report has not been submitted.

Annual report for 1997

6. The Management Authority of Pakistan informed the Secretariat that no trophy hunting of markhor was allowed in 1997 and provided a report on the population status of markhor in Pakistan prepared by the IUCN/SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group (Central Asia). This report indicates: a population increase in Chitral Gol National Park (population estimated in excess of 400); a state of over-population in Tushi Game Reserve (population estimated at 220); and an estimate of a further 681 individuals elsewhere in the Chitral region. A further 1296 markhor, representing a considerable population increase, was estimated in the Torghar Conservation Project area. Notwithstanding these favourable results, concern was expressed about ongoing markhor habitat conversion and illegal

hunting in other regions. The Secretariat notes that considerable resources and efforts were required to complete these surveys and expresses its appreciation to all concerned.

7. The status report for 1997 contains a recommendation and a request for clarification addressed to the Secretariat.
 - a) The author of the report recommends that the date of submission of survey reports be postponed to 31 May instead of 31 March because of persistent heavy snow cover in some areas to be surveyed.
 - b) The author of the report has requested clarification concerning the management of revenues resulting from trophy hunting of markhor within community-based conservation programme areas.

Annual report for 1998

8. After a reminder was sent by the Secretariat, the Management Authority of Pakistan reported that the three animals were hunted in 1998 (out of a maximum quota of 6). The Secretariat is also grateful that information was provided concerning tag and permit numbers.
9. Pakistan reported that an amount of USD 45,000 was earned from the hunting of the three markhors and that this revenue was shared with local communities, and indicated that the minimum trophy fee will be increased to USD 25,000 in the 1999-2000 hunting season. Village communities participating in markhor conservation will receive 80% of the revenue from hunting.

Recommendations

10. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 7. a) above, the Secretariat considers that this request should be accepted in view of the considerable commitment that conservationists in Pakistan are making to survey markhor populations i.e. that status reports may be submitted later than required in Resolution Conf. 10.15 if prevailing climatic conditions have delayed the completion of surveys. In such instances, the Management Authority should however, inform the Secretariat that the report would be submitted after the deadline.
11. Regarding the request in paragraph b), the Secretariat notes that no reference is made to the management of revenues in Resolution Conf. 10.15 and that this matter should be addressed at national level.
12. Regarding the report for 1998, the Secretariat commends Pakistan for reporting the first successful hunts since a markhor quota was approved and the implementation of its community-based conservation programme for markhor.
13. The Secretariat nevertheless notes that no information was provided on the status of markhor as recommended in paragraph e) of Resolution Conf. 10.15. The Secretariat considers that a recommendation to report on population status every year for a national population of wild animals occurring in remote and difficult mountainous terrain may not be implementable in practice and places an unnecessary burden on the range State. The Secretariat therefore suggests that Pakistan should provide information to the Conference of the Parties on a sustainable monitoring programme at an appropriate frequency that would cover all important subpopulations of markhor, for consideration of a possible refinement of the recommendation in paragraph e) of Resolution Conf. 10.15.