

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Capra falconeri falconeri* (including *cashmirensis*) and *Capra falconeri heptneri* (including *ognevi*) from Appendix II to Appendix I with the consequences that the whole species is included in Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Mamalia
12. Order: Artiodactyla
13. Family: Bovidae
14. Genus, species, subspecies: *Capra falconeri falconeri* (Wagner, 1839)
Capra falconeri heptneri (Zalkin, 1945)
15. Common Names: English: Tadzahik markhor, Uzbek markhor, Heptner's markhor, Astor markhor, Pir Panjal markhor, Kashmir markhor, flarehorned markhor, Bokharan's markhor, Turkmen markhor.
French: markhor.
Spanish: Markhor.
Russian: Markhur.
Urdu: Markhor.

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: A map showing the distribution of all *Capra falconeri* forms is found in Figure 1.

Capra falconeri falconeri

Afghanistan: In 1975 at least, found in the Bashgul River area of Konar Province and further west in Laghman Province.

Pakistan: In Chitral District, occurred in 1975 in around 15 valleys bordering the River Kunar from Shogore to Arandu on the west bank and south to Drosh on the east bank. In addition, the animals range up the River Mastuj

from its junction with the River Kunar to Barenis (Schaller, 1977). In Dir District markhor appear to survive only near the River Panjkora upstream from Patrak (Schaller and Khan, 1975) possibly into Kalam District.

In Swat District a few animals survived east of Mankial; they were still found in 1987 in the Swat Kohistan area (Shackleton, in prep.)

Animals are probably still present in Kalam and Hazara Districts on both sides of the River Indus from Jalkot upstream to Sazin.

India (Jammu and Kashmir): This subspecies occurs on both banks of the River Indus from Sazin upstream to Tungas near Sardu and also in tributaries; 6-7 km up the River Astor, up the River Gilgit to Jundoli on its north bank and Gakuch on its south, up the River Hunza north to Chalt, the Kargah Valley near Gilgit and the Parashing Valley (Schaller and Khan, 1975; Schaller, 1977). Further south-east, animals are found in the Shamsberi, Kaj-i-Nag and Pir Panjal ranges.

Capra falconeri heptneri

Afghanistan: Probably still present in the Safed Khirs area of Badakhshan Province.

USSR: Formerly quite widely distributed in the southern parts of Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan and part of Turkmenistan. Presently found in Tadzhikistan in two isolated populations; on the Vachshski hills (Sar-Saraka and Sanglok mountains near Nurek) and on the southern spurs of the Chasratishoch and Kushvoriston ranges and on the Darvazshi hills bordering Afghanistan. The former population may however now be extinct. The species also remains on the eastern slopes of the Kuigitanga range on the border between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan (Borodin, 1985) and in the Babatag range to the east of the River Kafirnigan on the border between Tadzhikistan and Uzbekistan.

22. **Population:** The reported numbers of both subspecies have dropped considerably in recent decades and the animals now only survive in isolated pockets. These subspecies are listed as "vulnerable" in the 1990 IUCN Red List. Numbers have become so low that the numbers of the subspecies in question have reached critical levels. Any trade now poses a serious threat to the survival of the animals.

Capra falconeri falconeri

Recent population estimates are lacking but would appear to be in the low thousands in total.

Afghanistan: Some 350 markhor were censused in western Nuristan, Laghman Province (Petocz, 1972) which was considered a small proportion of the animals present. The population was known to be declining steeply 10 years ago (Shackleton, in prep.)

Pakistan: The total population in Pakistan was estimated at 4,250 in the early 1970s (Schaller and Mirza, 1971) but serious declines in some

northern populations were noted by Swat (including a small number in Afghanistan, see above) population was put at 1500 in 1975 (Schaller and Khan). The population in Chitral District was estimated at around 1000 in 1978 (Khan *et al.*, 1978) but in 1983 the North-West Frontier Province Game Department (*in litt.*) estimated that only 200 remained. As a result of increased protection, the Chitral population was said to have risen to over 400 in 1985 (Maddox, *in litt.*, 1989) and over 700 (Malik, *in litt.*, 1990) or 800 (Sand, *in litt.*, 1990) in 1990. The population in Chitral Gol National Park was at most 108 animals in 1985/6 (Hess, *in press.*).

India (Jammu and Kashmir): The population along the banks of the River Indus and its tributaries in Eilgit District was estimated at 3,000 in 1975 (Schaller and Khan, 1975). The southern populations in the Shamsberi, Kaj-i-Nag and Pir Panjal ranges in 1975 were estimated at 250-300 animals (Wani, quoted in Schaller and Khan, 1975), recent estimates put the population at roughly the same figure (Bacha M.K., pers. comm. to Shackleton).

Capra falconeri heptneri

Recent populations estimates are lacking but would appear to be only around a thousand animals in total.

Afghanistan: 125-150 were possibly present in 1971 (Petocz, quoted in Goodwin and Holloway, 1982).

USSR: Listed as "Endangered" in the USSR Red Data Book. a population of around 1,000 in the 1950s was maintained until the 1970s, however, numbers have decreased since then and in 1985 the population numbered 700-900 in total, 200 of which were located in the Kugitanga hills and 500-700 in the Chazratishoch Kushvoriston areas (Borodin, 1985). The total Uzbekistan population which includes animals in the Kugitanga and Babatag ranges was estimated at 300-400 in 1983 (Uzbek SSR Academy of Sciences, 1983).

23. **Habitat:** Typically associated with steppe mountain conditions and regions of meagre erratic rainfall, markhor are quite adaptable ecologically, being found at from 600 m (2,000 ft) elevation in the completely treeless hot and arid hills up to 3,600 m (12,000ft) in the Himalayas in association with juniper and birch scrub forest. They avoid the higher altitudes frequented by the ibex *Capra ibex* and stick to the more precipitous mountain sides, never feeding on the more open alpine slopes frequented by the latter species. The main habitat requirements are the presence of cliffs, absence of deep snow and accessibility of areas below 2,200 m where temperatures are not extreme in the winter.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: The species has been subject to indiscriminate hunting in all the more accessible hills ranges in Pakistan (Nawaz, 1983) and to uncontrolled hunting and poaching in the USSR (Borodin, 1985). In view of the human conflicts in Afghanistan recently it is likely that the species has suffered similar depredation there.
32. Legal International Trade: This appears to be confined to trophies. In many instances the subspecies involved is not recorded in CITES annual reports.

Imports and exports of wild-taken Appendix-II *Capra falconeri* including those not reported by subspecies.

	IMPORT	EXPORT	ORIGIN	IMPORTS REPORTED	EXPORTS REPORTED
1981	BG CS	SU SU			6 horns (H) 1 live
1983	DK DK	PK PK		1 trophy (H)	1 skin (H)
1984	DE US	DK PK	(PK)		1 trophy (P) 1 trophy (H)
1985	AT AT US US	DE DE PK PK	[AF] [AF]	1 trophy (P)	1 skin (C) 3 skins (S) 3 trophies (S)
1986	US US US	PK PK PK		2 trophies	3 horns (S) 3 skins (S)
1987	US	PK			2 trophies
1988	BE US	PK PK			1 trophy (H) 2 trophies (H)
1989	DD CS	SU SU			1 live (Z) 3 live (Z)

In addition a number of inter-zoo transfers have been recorded involving specimens bred in captivity. (Source: WTMU, Cambridge).

33. Illegal Trade: Not known but see potential threats (342. below).

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: A potential exists for a trade in live specimens to stock game ranches.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Trophy hunting and the export of trophies comprising may parts of the body appears to be the principal potential threat. However, recent information suggests that there may be a demand for hooves, horns, intestines and bezoar (stomach) stones for use in oriental medicine in China and Korea. It is believed that *Capra falconeri* horn may fetch as much as US\$ 1,000 per kg in China (de Meulenaer, *in litt.*, 1991). There are no records of legal trade of this type but any such trade could prove a very significant threat to the small populations of *Capra falconeri* which remain.

4. Protection Status

41. National:

Afghanistan: Not known to be protected by statute nor to occur in any protected areas.

India: Fully protected by virtue of its listing in Schedule 1 of the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act 1978. Found in three protected areas.

Pakistan: Regional authorities are responsible for legislation protecting the species. Hunting of the species was prohibited by the Gilgit Agency in 1973 and by proclamation in the Chitral District in 1973. However, implementation of such controls is extremely difficult and much depend on the initiative of local chiefs and military units. Found in 11 small protected areas and two hunting reserves (Shackleton, *in prep.*). Permits are issued to export two (or three) specimens of *Capra falconeri falconeri* annually (Rao, 1986; Rao, 1989; Maddox, 1989).

USSR: Hunting forbidden in Uzbekistan (Uzbek SSR Academy of Sciences, 1983). Protected in the Dasti-Dshumsk reserve in Tadzhikistan and a reserve in the Kugitanga range in Uzbekistan (Borodin, 1985).

42. International: Both *Capra falconeri falconeri* and *Capra falconeri heptneri* have been listed in CITES Appendix II since 1 July 1975.

43. Additional Protection Needs: In addition to hunting pressure the species suffers from loss of habitat and competition for grazing with domestic goats. There is an urgent need to alleviate these problems.

5. Information on Similar Species

The species may prove difficult to distinguish from some primitive forms of domestic goat. In the form of hooves, bezoar (stomach) stones or intestines it is probably impossible to separate specimens from subspecies presently listed in Appendix I from those presently listed in Appendix II.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Sought; comments awaited.

7. Additional Remarks

This proposal is prepared at the request of the CITES Animals Committee following a recommendation at its 5th meeting in Vancouver, Canada, 19-23 August 1991.

8. References

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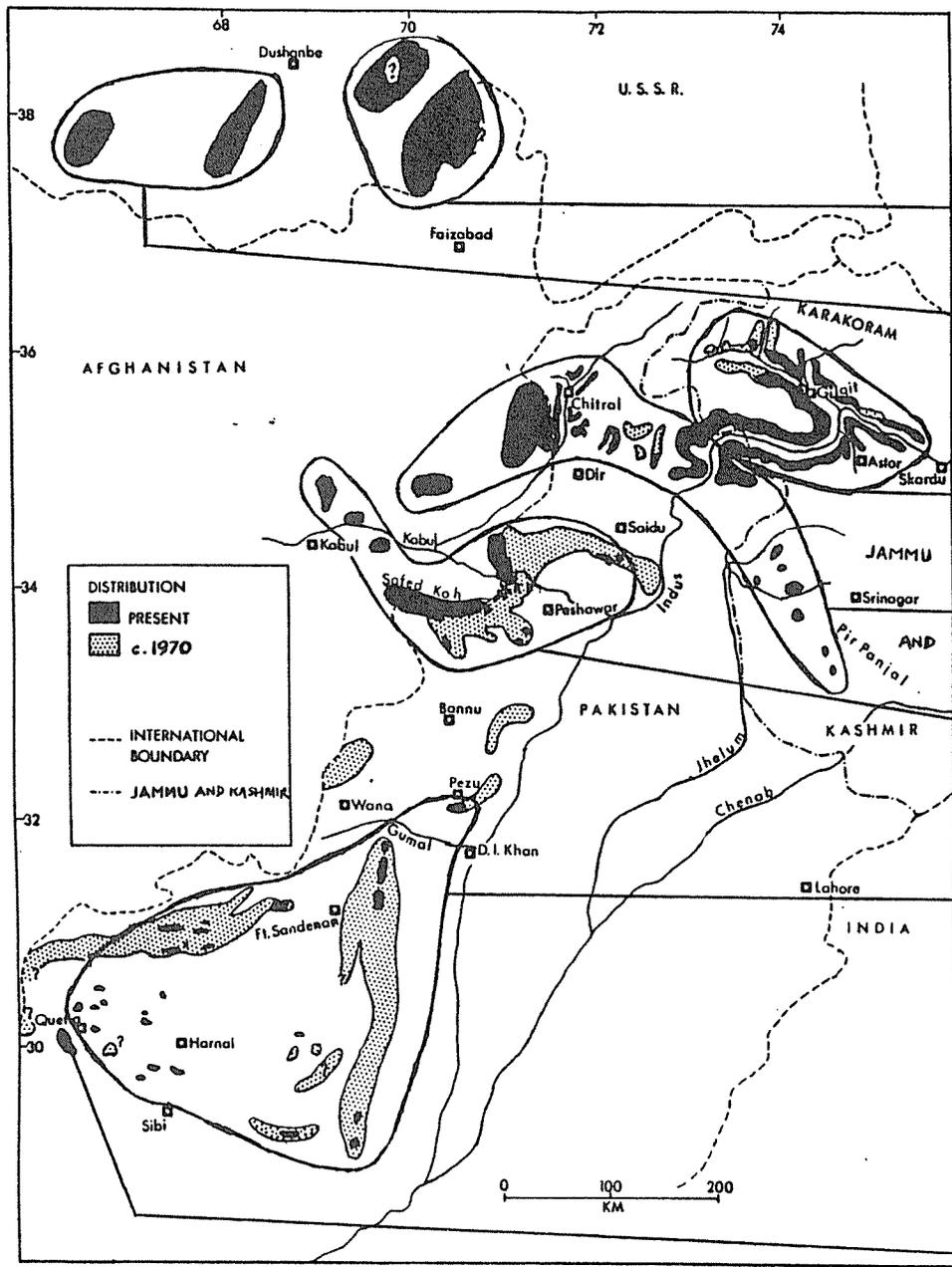
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TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE

PREVIOUS

CURRENT

Capra falconeri heptneri
Tadzhik Markhor
(Appendix II)

Capra falconeri heptneri
Heptner's Markhor
(Appendix II)

Capra falconeri ognevi
Uzbek Markhor
(Appendix II)

Capra falconeri falconeri
Astor Markhor
(Appendix II)

Capra falconeri falconeri
Flare-horned Markhor
(Appendix II)

Capra falconeri cashmirensis
Pir Panjal or Kashmir Markhor
(Appendix II)

Capra falconeri megaceros
Kabul Markhor
(Appendix I)

Capra falconeri megaceros
Straight-horned Markhor
(Appendix I)

Capra falconeri jerdoni
Sulaiman Markhor
(Appendix I)

Capra falconeri chialtanensis
Chiltan Markhor
(Appendix I)

Figure 1. Distribution of the Markhor Capra falconeri
(Adapted from Schaller & Khan 1975)