

## AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

## Ten-Year-Review proposals

## A. PROPOSAL

Clarification of *Ovis vignei* listing, resulting in *Ovis vignei vignei* remaining in Appendix I and other subspecies of *Ovis vignei* being included in Appendix II under provisions of Article II, paragraph 2(b).

## B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

## C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class:

12. Order:

Artiodactyla

13. Family:

Bovidae

14. Species:

*Ovis vignei vignei* occurring in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir

*Ovis vignei* populations occurring in other all other areas of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan west of the Pamirs, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Transcaspian area of Kazakhstan, and northeastern Iran.

Synonyms:

for other *Ovis vignei* subspecies: *arabica*, *arkal*, *blanordi*, *bochariensis*, *cycloceros*, *dolgopolovi*, *punjabiensis*, *severtzovi*, and *varentsowi*, and *Ovis vignei arkal* (= *dolgopolovi* or *varentsowi*) *Ovis orientalis* for each of the above subspecies, and *Ovis ammon severtzovi* for *Ovis vignei* (= *orientalis*) *severtzovi*.

15. Common Names:

English: shapu or shapo for *O. v. vignei*; urial for the other subspecies

French:

Spanish:

Russian: уриал а

16. Code Numbers:

A-119-009- \_\_\_\_\_

17. Remarks:

After the initial inclusion of this species in the appendices, the United States interpreted the listing to apply only to *Ovis vignei vignei* as indicated by its listing of this species in the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife when it listed most Appendix I species. This interpretation was based on use of the Checklist of Palaearctic and Indian Mammals (1966) by Ellerman and Morrison-Scott, and is supported by recent explanation of a U.S. delegate who attended the Plenipotentiary Conference and who stated that proposals by India were usually restricted to "taxa endemic to the territory of India or, in the case of transboundary taxa, [to those taxa] to which other nation(s) did

not object". This understanding would appear to support the more restricted interpretation of *Ovis vignei*. However, at the time of the CITES listing, a broader interpretation was also available in the literature, and others have since interpreted the original listing more broadly, e.g., World Checklist of Threatened Mammals compiled by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. In addition, both editions of Mammal Species of the World (the first having been adopted by the CITES Parties) also described a greater coverage for this classification than the restricted coverage provided by *Ovis vignei vignei*. The broader interpretation of *Ovis vignei* may have resulted in a taxonomic interpretation different from the original intent of the Parties. The withdrawal of the proposal by Iran to delete *Ovis vignei arkal* from Appendix I at COP2 could be interpreted as accepting the broader interpretation of the listing or as receiving clarification that this subspecies was not listed. No interpretation is presented in the minutes.

The 1994 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals recognizes seven subspecies of urial and places each in a threatened species category as follows: *O. v. blanfordi*, *O. v. bochariensis*, *O. v. severtzovi*, and *O. v. vignei* as endangered, *O. v. punjabiensis* as vulnerable, *O. v. cycloceros* as indeterminate (meaning it is known to be endangered, vulnerable, or rare), *O. v. arkal*, insufficiently known (meaning it is suspected but not definitely known to be endangered, vulnerable, or rare).

## 2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Ladakh Region of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan, Afghanistan, central and western Tajikistan, northwestern and central Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, southwestern Kazakhstan.
22. Population: TRAFFIC India advised that the urial sheep is probably one of the most endangered wild sheep species in India. The Russian Management Authority has advised that populations of *Ovis vignei arkal* in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan total 5,500-6,000; that populations of *O. v. cycloceros* in Turkmenistan total 10,000; that there are only 1,000-1,400 *O. v. bochariensis* in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; and at least 1,300 to 1,500 *O. v. severtzovi* in Uzbekistan. The Management Authority of Pakistan stated that *Ovis orientalis vignei* (= *O. v. vignei*), *O. o. blanfordi*, and *O. o. punjabiensis* occurred in fair numbers in Pakistan.

## 3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Used locally for meat but harvest estimates are not available.
32. Legal International Trade: Between January 1991 and September 1993 at least twelve trophies were imported into the United States from countries in the former Soviet Union. Richard Sand (*in litt.*) stated that urials (except for the shapo) have been exported in the hundreds from the range countries presumably since CITES came into force.
33. Illegal Trade: None reported, although the confusion as to what populations are listed may have resulted in some technical violations.

34. Potential Trade Threats: Clarification of this listing will reduce the possibility of specimens of Appendix II species of *Ovis ammon* being misrepresented from countries in which both species occur.

#### 4. Protection Status

41. National: All *Ovis vignei* subspecies occurring in countries of the former Soviet Union were previously considered to be *Ovis ammon* and as such were listed in the USSR Red Book (1978 and 1984).
42. International: *Ovis vignei* has been listed in Appendix I of CITES since 1 July 1975.

#### 5. Information on Similar Species

Specimens now considered to belong to the species *Ovis vignei* possess 58 chromosomes compared with 56 chromosomes possessed by *Ovis ammon* and 54 chromosomes possessed by *Ovis orientalis*. There is reportedly a hybrid zone in central Iran with specimens having 54-58 chromosomes.

*Ovis vignei vignei*, the Appendix I subspecies, occurs in areas administered by Pakistan along with two or three other subspecies now proposed for Appendix II, and in areas administered by India, along with *Ovis ammon hodgsoni*, also in Appendix I.

*Ovis ammon polii*, an Appendix II subspecies, occurs in the extreme northeast portion of Afghanistan, along with *Ovis vignei* (which also occurs in other portions of Afghanistan).

*Ovis ammon polii*, an Appendix II subspecies, occurs in the Pamir region of Tajikistan, while populations of *Ovis vignei* occur in the eastern portion of this country.

*Ovis ammon ammon*, *O. a. nigrimontana* and *O. a. karelini*, Appendix II subspecies, occur in central and eastern Kazakhstan, and *Ovis vignei arkal* populations occur in the Transcaspien region of Kazakhstan.

Of all the *Ovis vignei* range States, only Iran will have some populations of wild sheep not listed in Appendix I or II.

#### 6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Comments were sought from all range States.

Comments from Pakistan on urial populations were reported above in the population section and in addition Pakistan stated that there is no need to include the species in Pakistan in CITES. This, of course, overlooks the fact that *Ovis vignei vignei* is clearly included in Appendix I and that of any range State the justification is strongest for Pakistan to include the other populations in Appendix II for similarity of appearance reasons.

Information on *Ovis vignei* populations in countries of the former Soviet Union was received from Russia's Management Authority and presented in the above section on populations (the Management Authority in Russia still serves as Management Authority for the other countries in the former Soviet Union). In addition, Russia also recommends retaining only *O. v. vignei* in Appendix I and including all of the other subspecies of *O. vignei* in Appendix II.

7. Additional Remarks

The subspecies *Ovis vignei severtzovi* was considered by the United States to belong to the species *Ovis ammon* and is classified as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

8. References

Ellerman, J.R. and T.C.S. Morrison-Scott. 1966. Checklist of Palaearctic and Indian Mammals. British Museum (Natural History), London. 810 pp.

Groombridge, B. 1993. 1994 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, IUCN Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, U.K. 286 pp.

Honacki, J.H., K.E. Kinman and J.W. Koepl, eds. 1982. Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference. Allen Press Inc. and Association of Systematics Collections, Lawrence, Kansas. 694 pp.

Wilson, D.E. and D.M. Reeder, eds. 1993. Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference, 2nd edition. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 1206 pp.

World Conservation Monitoring Centre (compilers) 1993. World checklist of threatened mammals. Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Peterborough, U.K. 150 pp.