

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Other proposals

A. Proposal

Transfer of *Ovis ammon nigrimontana* from Appendix II to Appendix I of CITES

B. Proponent

The Federal Republic of Germany

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxonomy

- 1.1 Class Mammalia
- 1.2 Order Artiodactyla
- 1.3 Family Bovidae
- 1.4 Species *Ovis ammon nigrimontana*

1.5 Scientific synonyms

- 1.6 Common names English: Kara Tau argali, Karatau Argali
 French:
 German: Kara-Tau-Argali,

- 1.7 Code number A-119.009.....

2. Biological Parameters

2.1 Distribution

The Kara Tau argali is restricted to the western part of the Kara Tau (Syrdyarya) mountains of Kazakhstan (WEINBERG et al., in press).

2.2 Habitat availability

Argali inhabit more accessible mountain areas than do other species with similar ranges such as ibex. Therefore their habitat is frequently used by livestock. So competition and habitat degradation by overgrazing are major problems. Easy accessible habitat is also lost to forestry and agriculture. (SHACKLETON et al., in press).

2. 3 Population status

The current population status and size is unknown. It is believed to be very small, possibly as low as ca. 250 individuals (WEINBERG et al., in press, after GRACHEV, 1982). The Kara Tau argali is the most critical of all argali.

According to the 1994 IUCN Red List the global status of *O. a. nigrimontana* is Endangered. In accordance to the latest IUCN Red List of Threatened Mammals (GROOMBRIDGE et al., in press) the Kara Tau argali is classified as Critical. It is classed as "Endangered" in the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, and listed together with *O. a. karelini* and *O. a. collium* as "Rare" in the Kazakh Red Data Book (1978). (WEINBERG et al., in press).

Population in captivity: not known

2. 4 Population trends

Although the population is already very small it is probably declining. Before World War II, and for 10 to 15 years after, numbers were high, but by the end of the 1970's, only about 250 remained. (WEINBERG et al., in press, after GRACHEV, 1982).

2. 5 Geographic trends

The Kara Tau argali occurs in a restricted area with densities in some areas as low as 0,2 argali/km² (WEINBERG et al., in press, after GRACHEV, 1982).

2. 6 Role of the species in its ecosystem

2. 7 Threats

This subspecies is in very real danger of extinction. Their demise is caused by poaching and competition for resources with domestic livestock. (WEINBERG et al., in press)

Along with markhor and urial, argali are probably the most sought after Caprinae by trophy hunters. As they inhabit more accessible areas than other Caprinae, they are more vulnerable to poaching and hunting. (SHACKLETON et al., in press)

3. Utilization and Trade

3. 1 National utilization

Caprinae are hunted and prized for their meat, furs and body parts for alleged medicinal properties (SHACKLETON et al., in press).

3. 2 Legal international trade

Until recently the Hunting Consortium LTD with bureaus in USA and Germany offered combined hunting programmes in Russia and the GUS including Kara Tau argali (The Hunting Consortium LTD, 1995; see Annex 1).

3. 3 Illegal trade

A travel agency in Germany specialized in trophy hunts (The Hunting Consortium LTD, 1995; see Annex 1) makes a special feature for combined hunting programmes in Russia and the GUS including Kara Tau argali although the import into the EU is prohibited. For this it can not be excluded that there may be some illegal imports into the EU.

Whether and to what extent the Kara Tau argali is possibly involved in medicinal and fur-trade like other Caprinae is unknown.

3. 4 Actual or potential trade impacts

Trophy hunting (always taking the most trophy male, which is usually the main breeding male in a population) of the Kara Tau argali causes an additional negative effect and is incompatible with the very small population.

According to SHACKLETON et al., in press, an estimate of the extent of medicinal trade involving Caprinae should be undertaken immediately in co-operation with TRAFFIC and CITES.

3. 5 Captive Breeding for commercial purposes (outside country of origin)

Not known.

4. Conservation and Management

4. 1 Legal status

4. 1. 1 National

Already existing laws need to be enforced where necessary, and otherwise new or stronger laws are required to ensure an effective conservation legislation for the Kara Tau argali.

4. 1. 2 International

The Kara Tau argali (*Ovis ammon nigrimontana*) is listed together with other argali in Appendix II of CITES as well as in Annex C2 of the EU regulation 3626/82. At the time being there is an import stop for all *Ovis ammon* subspecies to the European Union.

According to SHACKLETON et al., in press, the current listing of *Ovis ammon* in Appendix II of CITES (except for *Ovis ammon hodgsonii* which is already listed in Appendix I of CITES) is probably inappropriate. Each subspecies should be reviewed independently to identify those that need raising to Appendix I (e. g., at least *O. a. jubata*, *O. a. nigrimontana*).

4. 2 Species management

4. 2. 1 Population monitoring

Current population data on numbers and trends are urgently needed.

4. 2. 2 Habitat conservation

The Kara Tau argali is found in no protected areas (SHACKLETON et al., in press).

4. 2. 3 Management measures

Unless conservation measures are taken quickly, the Kara Tau argali will soon be extinct.

4. 3 Control measures

4. 3. 1 International trade

CITES identification sheets about protected Caprinae should be worked out to aid law enforcement officials in their task of controlling the illegal trade.

4.3.2 Domestic measures

5. Information on Similar species

6. Other comments

Although contacted in October 1996 no comments have been received by the Ministry of Ecology and Bioresources of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the CITES Management Authority of the Russian Federation.

7. Additional Remarks

Ovis ammon nigrimontana, *O. ammon collium* and *O. a. polii* have been considered by some as a single subspecies (WEINBERG et al., in press).

8. References

- IUCN New Red List Categories (IUCN, November 1994).
 IUCN Red List of Threatened Mammals (GROOMBRIDGE et al., in press).
 The HUNTING CONSORTIUM LTD (1995): Hunting programmes in Russland and GUS. Boyce, Virginia, USA and Rednitzhembach, FRG.
 SHACKLETON, D.M. (in press): Conservation Priorities and Options. General Conservation Actions and Implementation.- In: SHACKLETON, D.M. (ed. & compiler), Conservation of Wild Caprinae: a survey and action plan, Chapter 11 & 12, IUCN, Gland/Switzerland.
 TRENSE, W. (1989): The Big Game of the World. Parey, Hamburg and Berlin.
 WEINBERG, P.I., FEDOSENKO, A.K., ARABULI, A.B., MYSLENKOV, A., ROMASHIN, A.V., VOLOSHINA, I. & ZHELEZNOV, N. (in press): CIS and Georgia. - In: SHACKLETON, D.M. (ed. & compiler), Conservation of Wild Caprinae: a survey and action plan, Chapter 7.2, IUCN, Gland/Switzerland.
 WILSON, D. E. & REEDER, D.A.M. (1993): Mammal Species of the World, 2nd edition. A taxonomic and geographic reference. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, London.

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SONDERARRANGEMENTS

Auf Anfrage arbeiten wir gerne spezielle Kombinationsprogramme aus, auch auf exotischere Wildarten wie Moschustier, Walroß, Bucharahirsch, Kara Tau Argali usw.



ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПО ОХРАНЕ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ

STATE COMMITTEE OF THE
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Scientific Authority for CITES

Date: February 27, 1997
Fax: (49228) 9543470
Our ref. No 17-04/315

Referring to your fax-message of 24.10.96 concerning transfer of *Ovis ammon nigrimontana* from Appendix II to Appendix I the RF MA for CITES would like to inform you that in consultation with the Ministry of Ecology and Bioresources of Kazakhstan it decided to support your proposal. At the same time it is necessary to clarify some items:

2.1 "The distribution of Karatau argali is limited to western and central parts of Karatau."

2.3 "The numbers is not more than 100 animals (Baydavletov, Grachyev, 1996). According to the Kazakhstan Red Data Book (1996) it is under the threat of disappear."

2.4 "...but nowadays the numbers does not exceed 100 individuals (Baydavletov, Grachyev, 1996)."

In items 2.5 and 2.7 references should not be made to Weinberg et al., but to Baydavletov, Grachyev, 1996.

Besides, the Ministry of Ecology and Bioresources of Kazakhstan has also expressed its desire to be the co-proponent of the proposal.

Best regards,

Sergey Iveritinov,
Deputy Director,
Department for
International Cooperation