

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

Inclusion of *Gazella cuvieri* (Cuvier's gazelle) in Appendix I.

B. Proponent

Algeria

C. Supporting statement

Species threatened with extinction and endemic to North Africa.

The Cuvier's gazelle populations in Algeria are the largest in the world.

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Mammalia

1.2 Order: Artiodactyla

1.3 Family: Bovidae

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Gazella cuvieri* (Ogilby, 1841).

1.5 Scientific synonyms: *Antilope corinna*, *Antilope cuvieri*, *Gazella vera*, *Gazella cineraceus*, *Gazella kevela*, *Dorcas subkevella*, *Dorcas setifensis*

1.6 Common names: English: Cuvier's gazelle, idmi gazelle, idmi, Atlas Mountain gazelle
French: gazelle de Cuvier, gazelle des montagnes
Spanish: gazela de Cuvier

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Overview

Cuvier's gazelle always used to be widespread at the higher altitudes of the mountainous regions running from Tunisia to Morocco and extending almost to the Atlantic coast. By 1972, only a few small herds were left in various parts of the Atlas Mountains. It was thought that the species had probably been exterminated in Morocco, but that proved not to be the case. At the present time it survives in a number of small populations in mountainous regions in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

3. Species characteristics

3.1 Distribution

Atlas Mountains and neighbouring chains in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, as well as the plains of western Morocco.

3.2 Habitat

Cuvier's gazelle, also known as the Atlas Mountain gazelle, is endemic to the hills and plateaux of the Atlas range. It breeds in a wide variety of habitats in uneven terrain, including open oak forests; and forests of Aleppo pine. It is even found in stony desert plateau regions.

3.3 Biological characteristics

Cuvier's gazelle lives in small herds of five or six, or alternatively alone. It feeds in particular on young esparto shoots (*Stipa tenacissima*), other grasses, young legume leaves and holm oak acorns. Since it needs to drink, it stays close to sources of water. Gestation takes approximately 170 days. Females give birth in April or May, generally to a singleton, on rare occasions to twins (Le Berre, 1990).

3.4 Morphological characteristics

This is a relatively large gazelle, recognizable by its broad light and dark brown bands along the flanks, its white belly and hindquarters and its black tail. It has a prominent black mark on the end of its muzzle. There are clear stripes on the face and the ears are pale, long and narrow. The horns are long (25 to 37 cm) and well annulated in both sexes; they initially grow vertically before bending rearwards and outwards; the smooth points curve inwards and forwards (Groves, 1988; Kingdon, 1997). Height at the withers is similar to that at the hindquarters (Panouse 1957). Females are smaller than males (average weight, females = 30 kg, males = 35 kg) (Abaigar, personal communication).

3.5 Role of the species in its ecosystem

The species plays an important role in the region's biological equilibrium.

4. Status and trends

4.1 Habitat trends

Cuvier's gazelle lives on the slopes of the Tellian chains, those of the more southerly mountain mass formed by the Saharan Atlas, and the mountain masses of the eastern part of the country (Tristam, 1860; Loche, 1867; Pease, 1896; Joleaud, 1929; Heim de Balsac, 1936). It has disappeared from a large part of the Tellian Atlas towards the east of the country.

4.2 Population size

In 1991 De Smet estimated the stock of Cuvier's gazelle in Algeria at 560 individuals, 235 of them in the Tellian Atlas and 140 in the Saharan Atlas.

The survey undertaken by the *Direction Générale des Forêts* [Directorate-General for Forests] in order to identify the ranges of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes, which started in March 2005 and will continue until the end of 2008, gave an estimate for the period 2005 to 2006 of 500 Cuvier's gazelles.

4.3 Population structure

According to the survey referred to above, populations of Cuvier's gazelle are present in 35 communes, in 13 *wilayas* (departments) (eight of them in the Tellian Atlas and five in the semi-arid region).

4.4 Population trends

Population numbers remaining more or less stable over time.

4.5 Geographic trends

Populations tend to occupy semi-arid and arid zones.

5. Threats

Primarily poaching and forest fires.

6. Utilization and trade

6.1 National utilization

None.

6.2 Legal trade

None.

6.3 Parts and derivatives in trade

None.

6.4 Illegal trade

None.

6.5 Actual or potential trade impacts

None.

7. Legal instruments

7.1 National

Law No. 04-07 of 14 August 2004 dealing with hunting (Articles 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58).

Order No. 06-05 of 15 July 2006 dealing with the protection and preservation of certain animal species threatened with extinction, under which Cuvier's gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*) is treated in Algeria as a highly protected species.

7.2 International

Cuvier's gazelle is listed in Class A of the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and consequently cannot be hunted or captured except on the authorization of the highest competent authority, and only in the national interest or for scientific purposes. Tunisia and Morocco have ratified the African Convention, while Algeria has signed it but not yet ratified it.

Bonn Convention: Appendix I, Resolution 3, 2, 4.

Washington Convention (CITES): Appendix III.

8. Species management

8.1 Management measures

The Cuvier's gazelle populations are managed at the national level by the authority responsible for hunting (the *Direction Générale des Forêts*) and at the regional level by the conservation authorities for forests, national parks and natural reserves such as the Mergueb reserve in M'Sila.

8.2 Population monitoring

A survey has been launched by the *Direction Générale des Forêts* in order to identify the ranges of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes. This started in March 2005 and will continue until the end of 2008.

8.3 Control measures

8.3.1 International

Application of CITES.

Application of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

8.3.2 Domestic

By the forest wardens with responsibility for the territory.

8.4 Captive breeding

There is a plan to establish a national centre for semi-captive breeding of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes at El Menea, in the *wilaya* of Ghardaïa.

8.5 Habitat conservation

The species is found in the following protected areas: Belezma National park (26,500 ha), Mergueb State Natural Reserve (32,000 ha), Djebel Senalba State National Forest (20,000 ha). There are also small numbers of Cuvier's gazelle in three hunting reserves, namely Djebel Wahch (400 ha), Djebel Nadour (200 ha) and Djebel Aissa (500 ha).

8.6 Safeguards

A joint UNDP/*Direction Générale des Forêts* project on the restoration and protection of the ecosystems of the arid zones in the region of Taghit (*wilaya* of Bechar) and the Mergueb reserve (*wilaya* of M'Sila).

9. Information on similar species

This species shares the same range as the slender-horned gazelle, for example in the *wilaya* of Biskra.

This species shares the same range as the Dorcas gazelle, for example in the *wilaya* of Nâama.

This species shares the same range as the Barbary sheep, for example in the *wilayas* of Batna and Khenchela.

10. Consultations

11. Additional remarks

12. References

CMS Technical Series Publication N° 10, Antilopes Sahélo-Sahariennes (Statuts et perspectives),
Edité par: Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique avec la collaboration de SCF – SSIG
(Novembre 2005).

L'enquête Nationale sur l'identification des aires de répartition des antilopes sahélo-sahariennes en
Algérie lancée par La Direction Générale des Forêts (2005/2008).