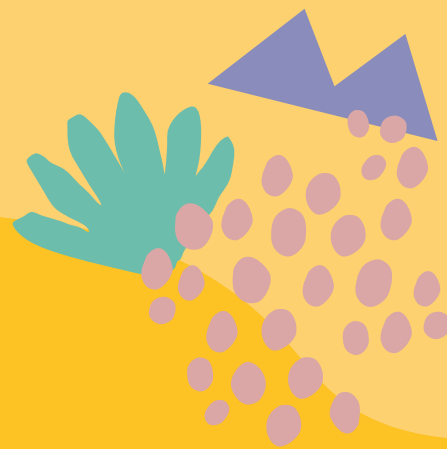




## CITES & LIVELIHOODS CASE STUDY 2019

# Ibex and Markhor trophy hunting in Tajikistan



## SPECIES, USE, AND TRADE

Asiatic Ibex and Markhor are wild goats of the mountains of Central Asia. In Tajikistan, CITES trade is of trophies from hunting programmes of both species.

Community conservancies to conserve and sustainably use ibex and markhor (via hunting) were initiated by NGOs, communities and supporters beginning in 2008. Conservancies are in remote, poor areas, with traditional lifestyles largely dependent on natural resources, where poaching and overgrazing became serious problems under Soviet and post-Soviet regimes. The aim is to support sustainable community livelihoods in a way that promotes conservation of wild species and habitat. Eight conservancies are now functioning, with another six in development. They cover approx. 420,000ha and are managed by local traditional hunters.

Community members are involved in all aspects of wildlife management and hunting: monitoring, anti-poaching, homestays, food supply etc. They draw on local traditional knowledge blended with modern systematic knowledge. The employment and empowerment of women in wildlife conservation is increasing, and the number of female rangers (currently 5) is slowly growing.

## LIVELIHOOD BENEFITS

Conservancies relying on hunting provide highly locally significant livelihood benefits – income, jobs, skills, and infrastructure – in remote regions where agriculture is marginal and there are very few jobs or other sources of cash income.

Around 300 jobs are directly provided, with approx. 20,000 community members benefiting indirectly. For example, a typical ibex conservancy employs 13 rangers, earning approx. USD 65/month (a standard full-time income locally); homestay operators earn approx. USD 500 per hunt; drivers will earn approx. USD 90

per hunt; shop owners providing supplies earn approx. USD 320 per season.

Each ibex hunt (5-10/year) generates, after government permit fees and other expenses, approx. USD 2,000 for the conservancy. Of this approx. 30% is invested in local community development projects. Likewise, for markhor, each hunt (2-4 per year) generates approx. USD 78,000 for the conservancy, with up to USD 25,000 invested in local development. Communities have gained camps, bridges, better roads, better equipped and functioning



**ASIATIC IBEX**  
*Capra sibirica*



**MARKHOR**  
*Capra falconeri*



**APPENDIX III (PAKISTAN)**



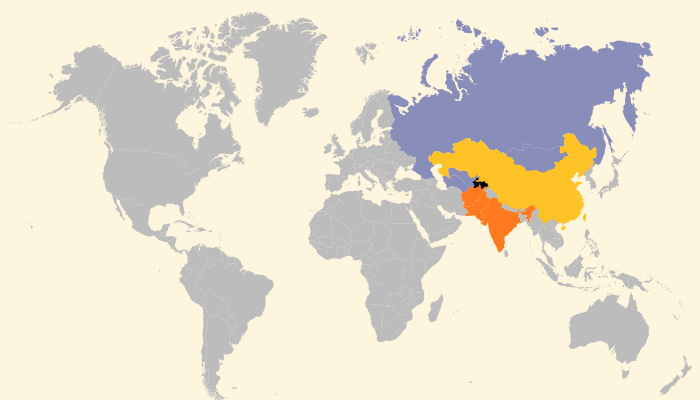
**APPENDIX I**



**LEAST CONCERN**



**NEAR THREATENED**



■ Ibex ■ Markhor ■ Both ■ Tajikistan



Asiatic Ibex in Tajikistan.  
Photo: Jason Goldman

schools (i.e. heating, electricity, books), microcredit schemes, fuel and food for vulnerable families, support for old and sick, and electrification.

Locals have gained skills such as wildlife monitoring, wildlife biology, English language, leading hunts, tourism, financial management, while school children have gained education about wildlife and conservation. Communities have also gained a sense of community pride and responsibility for wildlife.

## CONSERVATION IMPACTS

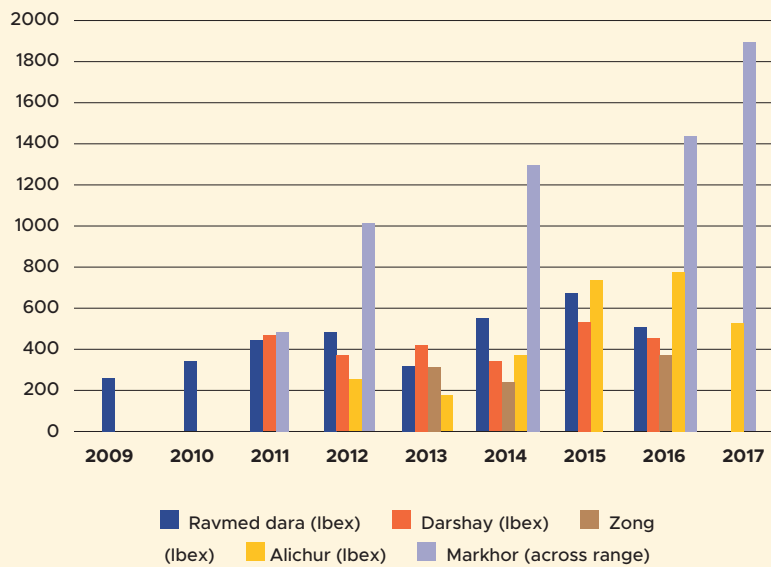
Community-based management and associated trophy hunting has led to increased populations of ibex and Markhor (see Fig 1), as well as their key predator snow leopard. Benefits have led people to value wild species and landscapes, leading to lower livestock densities, more sustainable grazing practices, better monitoring and anti-poaching, and more effective law enforcement. The results are reduced poaching and illegal trade, better habitat conservation, and species recovery.

Today an estimated 2,500 ibex and 2,000 markhor, as well as 70 snow leopards, are protected within community conservancies relying on trophy hunting for their income.

Harvest quotas are area-specific and set in line with conservation priorities (1-2% (for ibex) and 1% (for markhor) of conservancy population.

If trophy hunting and trade here was stopped, local livelihood impacts would be severe, and both grazing and poaching would increase. Tourism currently plays virtually no positive conservation role in Tajikistan.

Markhor in Tajikistan.  
Photo: Jason Goldman



**Fig 1.** Populations of ibex in four conservancies in Tajikistan, and markhor across most of its range in the country. Data held by ANCOT.

## LESSONS LEARNT AND DIRECTIONS

Community wildlife management of ibex and Markhor in Tajikistan, using trophy hunting, has helped drive species recovery and habitat conservation, and provides important local livelihood benefits. Keys to success include gaining active and committed engagement of local people, driven by livelihood incentives; partnerships (both among conservancies and with other supporters); and a focus on transparency.

### KEY CHALLENGES INCLUDE:

- Inadequate building of partnerships with government;
- Weak and inadequately transparent local mechanisms for spending of funds generated by hunting;
- Weak governance in Tajikistan, making it challenging for conservancies to operate with certainty around allocation of permits and financial flows;
- Competition with the much more powerful private hunting interests, not necessarily supportive of community management.

### PRIORITIES ARE:

- More international (import state) oversight of in-country CITES controls to ensure sound sustainable management e.g. quota-setting, permit allocation, independent population surveys;
- Building robust, equitable and transparent benefit allocation mechanisms at local level, particularly where communities have little experience with cash income.



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IN COLLABORATION WITH:



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