

## Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management in Central Asia



A study prepared by the Frankfurt Zoological Society in collaboration with other organisations  
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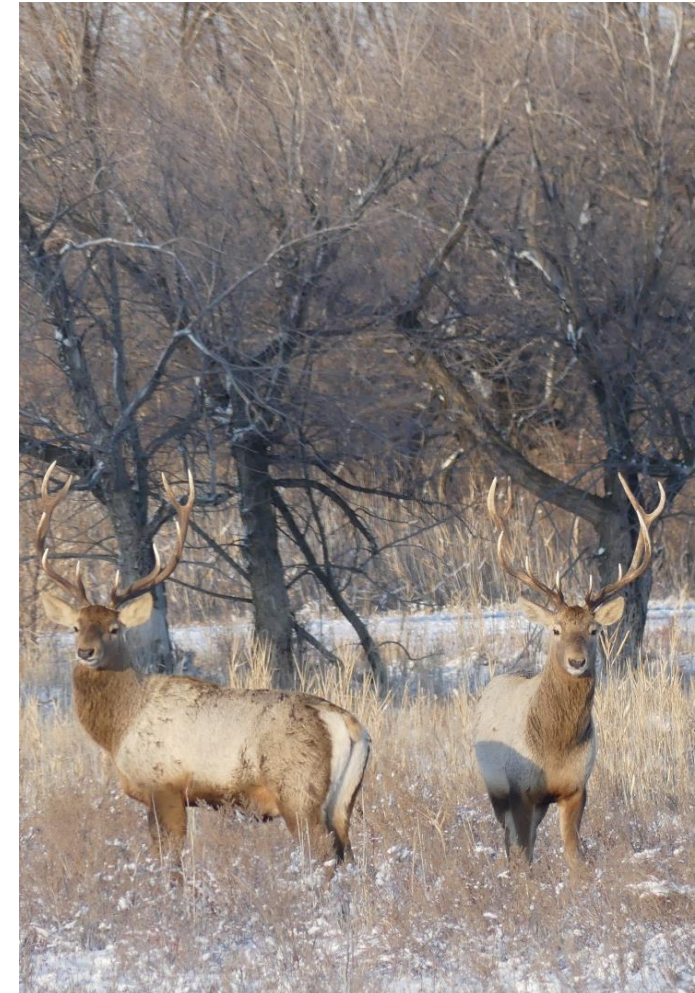
# Introduction

- Poaching has been recognised by CAMI Range States as one of the main reasons for the decline of CAMI species.
- Reasons vary: extraction of meat for subsistence, for recreational purposes, human-wildlife clashes, e.g. due to competition for land, pasture, etc., and for illegal trade purposes.
- According to the Global Assessment Report on the State of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019), ecosystems managed by local people have experienced significantly less degradation than others.
- Examples from around the world collected by the CITES (CITES and Livelihoods) project also show that community-led management helps prevent poaching and creates incentives for habitat conservation.

# Mandate

## Central Asian Mammals Initiative Programme of Work 2021-2026 (Resolution 11.24.Rev.COP13):

- 5.11 Engage conservationists from local communities and encourage their direct involvement in conservation initiatives such as anti-poaching monitoring, ecotourism, science with civil society, and empower local community organisations by giving them a formal status and role.
- 5.14 Assess the feasibility of sustainable use of CAMI species in the region, taking into account the benefits to local communities as well as relevant legislation.
- 5.15 Support community-based (conservation) practices and explore other sustainable wildlife use options (e.g. subsistence hunting, photography, ecotourism) that provide incentives for conservation, and adjust legislation accordingly.



# Definitions

- Community-based wildlife management (CBWM) is a collective social process whereby rights holders agree to hunt or fish in a defined geographical area in a way that maintains animal populations at stable levels for many decades.
- CBWM is not a new approach to conservation - indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) have managed the land they live on and the natural resources they are surrounded by for thousands of years.
- However, since the 1980s there has been a growing realisation of the importance and effectiveness of locally-led wildlife management practices.



# Methodology

## Selection of target species

1. Expert judgement of the amount of data and knowledge available
2. Potential for local community involvement in management: based on the species' behaviour, habitat and remoteness of the habitat
3. Existing community-based management approaches: reflects the number of existing examples of community-based management of the species known to the author team.
4. Regional relevance: number of countries where the species occurs.
5. Need for action: the need to develop new management mechanisms with greater involvement of local people to address existing problems.



# Target species

The study looks at the involvement of local people in organising wildlife-watching eco-tourism and sustainable use of the following species:

- Saiga
- Bukhara deer
- Snow leopard
- Argali



# Selected general recommendations for decision-makers to promote CBWM in Central Asia

- Consider the economic benefits of CBWM in decision-making as an incentive to improve conservation of wildlife and their habitats, and as a contribution to rural development.
- Consider sustainable use as a measure of wildlife and base decisions to do so on sound science.
- Encourage the establishment of non-profit NGOs by local communities and their involvement in the management of wildlife populations.
- **Red Books**
  - Align species assessment procedures for Red Data Books with IUCN recommendations.
  - Consider the possibility of limited use of certain Red Data Book species.
- **Sanctuaries (*zakazniks*, limited use-reserves) and similar protected areas**
  - Allow sustainable use of target species in sanctuaries, e.g. through the CBWM approach, and
  - ensure that any land use in the area does not harm wildlife.

# Species-specific recommendations

- Specific recommendations for Argali, Bukhara Deer and Saiga considered during recent Meetings of Signatories
- Taken into account during elaboration of Programmes of Work for Bukhara Deer and Saiga and Action Plan for Argali.



# Species-specific recommendations

- **For snow leopard:**
  - Support human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures in the Snow Leopard range financially and technically;
  - Consider enabling the creation of private protected areas and community-based tourism development to support conservation of Snow Leopard habitat;
  - Consider CBWM approaches with extractive use of Snow Leopard's prey species (Asiatic Ibex, Markhor, Argali, etc.) to support conservation;
  - Provide limited hunting quotas for old male ungulates of Snow Leopard's prey species to holders of wildlife management areas in the (potential) Snow Leopard range in accordance with scientific standards, so as not to harm the population;
  - Allow limited domestic hunting of Snow Leopard's prey species only in areas with high densities;
  - Allow for a long-term or temporary lease of pasture by holders of wildlife management areas to influence land use for the benefit of Snow Leopard's prey species.



# Thank you for your attention!

