



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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RANGE STATE MEETING ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION AND REVISION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ARGALI (*Ovis ammon*)
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 12-13 September 2024

**RANGE STATE REPORT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ARGALI (*Ovis ammon*) FOR THE PERIOD OF 2014-2024**

NEPAL

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF RANGE STATE REPORTS
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ARGALI (*Ovis ammon*) FOR THE PERIOD OF 2014-2024**

In order to implement Activities 4.1.5 on identifying a suitable mechanism for the coordination and revision of the Action Plan implementation activities and 4.1.7 on submitting Range State monitoring data of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali (*Ovis ammon*) (Argali SSAP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS Secretariat) developed this reporting format to monitor its implementation by the Range States.

Reports on implementation will support exchange of information throughout the range and assist the identification of necessary future actions for the conservation of the species. Please complete as appropriate and return to the CMS Secretariat (cms.secretariat@cms.int), keeping in mind that not all sections are relevant to each country.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Range State name:	NEPAL	
1.2. Designated Focal Point (full contact details):	Mr. Shyam Kumar Shah, Senior Ecologist Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Email : shyamkumar_shah@yahoo.com	
1.3. Date submitted:	24 /06/ 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)	
1.4. Period covered by the report:	From: <u> </u> dd/mm/yyyy	To: <u> </u> dd/mm/yyyy
1.5. List of agencies or NGOs that have provided input to this report:	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)	

2. ARGALI POPULATIONS

2.1. Is the Argali population monitored in your country?

The National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 has listed Argali as protected priority species. However, there is insufficient information available to make an accurate assessment of the extinction risk of this species in Nepal. Its population is not being monitored in Nepal

2.2. Describe the monitoring methods. For example, monitoring tools can include camera traps, aerial counts, yearly snow counts, surveys, and other field methods.

No monitoring has been done for this species.

2.3. What percent of your country's Argali population is being monitored?

It has not been monitored yet.

2.4. Is monitoring regular, occasional, or spontaneous (also name the organization(s) that carries out the monitoring)?

No Monitoring for this species.

2.5. Please describe results of these monitoring efforts (since the last report), indicating which monitoring method described in 2.2 above, was used.

Neither site specific nor national level monitoring for Argali is carried out.

2.6. Describe existing populations and subpopulations and their current status.

There is insufficient information available to make an accurate assessment of the extinction risk of this species in Nepal.

2.7. Overall Argali population trend in your country Increasing Decreasing Stable Unknown

2.8. How are monitoring records of the Argali in your country kept, and what organization, agency or office (NGO or Government) maintains these records/database?

No studies has been carried out for this species.

2.9. What measures have been taken to standardise Argali monitoring methodology with other states?

Not yet

Nepal has not prepared specie Conservation Action Plan for Argali. Thus, all the data filled in the following sections are adapted from species inhabit in Argali range.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ARGALI (*Ovis ammon*) FOR THE PERIOD OF 2014-2024

Objective 1: To stabilize Argali numbers and range and reverse negative trends

Result 1.1. Poaching and other human induced mortality are reduced

Action	Action undertaken	Period	Results	Challenges	Further Action required
1.1.1. Implement effective anti-poaching measures addressing poaching at all levels	Law enforcement and Collaboration with local people	Throughout the year	Conservation of Argali and Biodiversity	High Altitude and limited budgets	Mobilization of Citizen Scientist and intelligence
1.1.2. Strengthen management capacity of trophy hunting concessions and clearly define hunting zones and seasons	National Survey and Monitoring should be done	Monitoring throughout the year and National Survey once in 3/4 year	Data Base Maintained	Conflict of Interest	Modern Technique and Technology for the fast and accurate finding
1.1.3. Provide relevant training and equipment for law enforcement officers, PA staff, and others	Frontline Staff and Technician should be well trained and well equipped	Always	Poaching control and skill development	Budget constrains	Collaboration with range countries and funding organization or developed countries
1.1.4. Report poaching incidents to mass media and CMS	Nepal should be party or Member to the CMS Good collaboration with Media and local people needed	After signatory Timely coordination program needed (twice a year)	Collaboration and coordination for protection & management	Process and Budget	
1.1.5. Develop a confiscation policy for argali products and ensure that benefits of retained or auctioned seized products are reinvested in argali conservation	law enforcement and awareness program	periodically	People attitude toward the conservation of the species is found positive	Diversity of the local communities	
1.1.6. Address the threat of livestock-wildlife disease transmission through vaccination of livestock in	Provision of Veterinary Doctor in protected area And awareness program	always	Healthy population	Zoonotic Diseases	Provision of Central veterinary Lab and its accessories

appropriate cases, effective exclusion of livestock from PAs, health monitoring of argali and contiguous livestock populations					
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Result 1.2. Argali is used and managed sustainably, with support of local communities

Action	Action undertaken	Period	Results	Challenges	Further Action required
1.2.1. Involve local communities formally in the management and sustainable use of argali and their habitat	Formation of buffer zone user committees, buffer zone community forest user groups Community Based Anti-poaching Unit	Timely amended	Ownership to the protected area and its species for conservation and help in the conflict management of HWC	Conflict of interest Budget constraints	Awareness about importance and ownership of the local resources and PA
1.2.2. Promote long-term assignment of management rights to communities	Buffer-Zone concept and User groups concept	Generally 5 year period	Ownership and collaboration	Repetition of same person and conflict of interest	
1.2.3. Ensure that a percentage of hunting revenues is dedicated to argali conservation	30-50 percent of total revenue collected from the protected area goes to its buffer-zone management and protection	annually	Positive attitude to the conservation	Data Deficit for the hunting of this species it is protected species in the context of Nepal so hunting can be allowed	Its scientific studies and research should be carried out and its status and distribution is necessary to find out.
1.2.4. Ensure the equitable benefit sharing of revenues from trophy hunting to local communities	Engagement of local guide along with park staff for hunting purposes	During the hunting period	Positive attitude to the conservation	Youths are migrating in search of secure future to foreign countries or cites	Create the opportunities of jobs and fundamental facilities in the local areas
1.2.5. Promote sustainable community-based wildlife management programmes / trophy hunting programmes	Scientific studies and findings prior to hunting Wildlife conservation program	periodically	Involvement of locals in the conservation	Conflict of interest	Collaboration and coordination with local communities

1.2.6. Ensure sustainable harvest of argali and compliance with CITES, EU regulation and the US Endangered Species Act	CITES act and regulation CBD convention, NBSAP, Collaboration and active participation in international convention and treaty	As per conventions or treaty	Strong bonding with other countries. Control on illegal trade of the species	National Law and Regulation as it is protected species of Nepal	Scientific Studies and research is needed
1.2.7. Review and where necessary strengthen legal and institutional measures concerning management of hunting areas, setting of quotas and allocation of licences and ensure their transparency	Regular coordination and meeting	As per need	Smooth operation of the work and strong collaboration is developed	In high altitude regular meeting may not be possible	Webinar concept
1.2.8. Coordinate the allocation of quotas in trans-boundary populations among range states					
1.2.9. Training law enforcement staff in implementation of CITES regulations, identification of argali products and techniques for countering illegal trade	Species and its derivatives recognition training, collaboration with CITES and other convention	At least 3/4 times a year	Illegal trade control	Lack of skill to identify species and its derivatives and lack of sound training	Periodic and advance training and skill development training needed

Objective 2: To maintain and restore intact Argali habitat and migration routes

Result 2.1. Pastures are sustainably managed and availability and quality of Argali habitat have improved

Action	Action undertaken	Period	Results	Challenges	Further Action required
2.1.1. Develop pasture management plans in key sites to maintain and restore intact rangelands	Rotation or traditional grazing is allowed for maintaining pasture land	periodically	Maintain rangeland and help in the livelihood of local people	Its monitoring and systematic regulation	
2.1.2. Involve local people living on and using argali habitat to improve land management and cohabitation of argali, livestock and people, including through	Involvement of local communities in its protection program, Awareness programs and alternative livelihood system	periodically	People will be positive toward the conservation of argali if the alternative job	Limited resources and budget constrains	Collaboration with supporting organization

Community Conservation Incentive Agreements			opportunities is given for their livelihood		
2.1.3. Monitor the effects of climate change on argali habitat and integrate mitigation measures and climate change adaptation scenarios into habitat/site management	Research and studies of the species and its habitats	periodically	It find out the status of the habitat and the species. Also the impact of climate changes in its conservation	Difficult geography	Modern technology and method for the study
2.1.4. Increase the effectiveness of protected area networks and hunting concessions for argali (including transboundary), their coverage and interconnectivity	Transboundary collaboration and coordination	periodically	Mutual understanding	Platform or medium for collaboration like CMS	Should be party to CMS
2.1.5. Provide adequate transport, equipment, and training to protected areas and rangers	Field gears, more incentives and training should be given to field staffs	periodically	Motivation towards the work	Lack of facilitators and budget constrains	Coordination with donor organization

Result 2.2. Forage shortages for Argali in critical areas and times of the year are reduced

Action	Action undertaken	Period	Results	Challenges	Further Action required
2.2.1. Increase energy efficiency and use of alternative fuel by local households to reduce the collection of fuel wood (e.g. teresken)	Zonation of the protected area should be done and awareness of people with alternative source for their livelihood	periodically	Ample resources will be there if people use alternative resources	Market value for the alternative resources	
2.2.2 Development of temporal and spatial restrictions on livestock grazing and hay making to ensure adequate forage for argali during critical seasons	Transhumance system in the sustainable ways	sustainably as per the need	Provides the argali enough space and grazing lawn for its survival in critical seasons	Limited range land and difficult land geography	Provision of alternative for livestock management

Result 2.3. Disturbance and displacement by herders and other human activities are minimized

Action	Action undertaken	Period	Results	Challenges	Further Action required
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2.3.1. Work with local herders to reduce the threat of guard and feral dogs preying on argali lambs	Awareness to people and provision of laws enforcement and punishment	As per need	Reduce in the presence of feral dogs in the grazing lands	It's difficult to monitor	Collaboration and coordination with local people and conservation workers
2.3.2. Reduce or prevent disturbance at key sites from livestock herding, poaching and hunting, mining, and recreational activities through zoning, compensatory payments and other site management measures	Collaboration with local people and law enforcement	As per need	Reduction in poaching and increase in the number of argali		

Result 2.4. Negative impacts of mining and infrastructure development are minimized and mitigated

Action	Action undertaken	Period	Results	Challenges	Further Action required
2.4.1. Ensure Environmental Impact Assessments / Strategic Environmental Assessments are conducted rigorously and transparently	National Law prohibits the mining and mega structure development inside the protected area without EIA	As per needed	Biosafety	Conflict of interest	Provision of separate governmental Organization to carry out EIA
2.4.2. Ensure compliance with International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standard 6 to reduce the negative impact on biodiversity of infrastructure developments and apply appropriate suitable mitigation measures	Provision of national laws and guideline		For wildlife or biodiversity friendly infrastructure in the forest area	Conflict of interest	
2.4.3. Improve connectivity by removing barriers between populations and migration corridors, and if removal is not possible, by adjusting infrastructure (e.g. fences) to make it permeable for argali	Concept of biological corridors and landscape level of conservation for biodiversity conservation	As per need	Biodiversity hotspot	Conflict with development sector	

Result 2.5. Conservation management and international cooperation are maximized to maintain connectivity of Argali populations

Action	Action undertaken	Period	Results	Challenges	Further Action required
2.5.1. Increase the capacity of protected area and hunting area managers to monitor and sustainably manage argali populations through training	Regular patrolling and monitoring	regularly	Reduce in illegal trade and increase in its number	Lack of skill and modern technology in its monitoring system	Collaboration with other agencies
2.5.2. Engage international agencies that provide common platforms for knowledge sharing and best practices	Member to CITES, CBD, UNFCCC, GTF, RAMSAR	periodically	Platform for sharing best practices		
2.5.3. Facilitate transboundary activities including information exchange on trade and use, joint law enforcement and anti-poaching activities; penetration of border fences, transboundary monitoring & research, communication and other actions related to wildlife diseases and transboundary protected areas	Transboundary collaboration and coordination with Nepal and China for the protection and conservation of biodiversity	periodically	Strong collaboration		
2.5.4. Establish data sharing protocols and regularly submit information to the CMS Secretariat	Should be party to CMS		-		

Objective 3: To fill knowledge and information gaps

Result 3.1. Sufficient information on Argali status, trends, ecology and management is available to all Stakeholders

Action	Action undertaken	Period	Results	Challenges	Further Action required
3.1.1. Review different census methods, and methodologies for reliable census and monitoring of argali	Review of other species like blue sheep	As per need	Same methods	Sometimes new technology should be adopted	

3.1.2. Develop a best-practice manual for argali monitoring using standardised techniques and promote its use in all Range States	Needed to implement	As per need	For best practices throughout the range countries	Adaptation of the practice due to national obligation	
3.1.3. Implement robust monitoring programs for all argali populations	needed				
3.1.4. Monitor and study argali and its habitat to improve management					
3.1.5. Assess the root causes and impact of natural and human induced threats to argali populations and the key drivers of population dynamics					
3.1.6. Determine national capacity needs, in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities					
3.1.7. Establish a group of management and monitoring experts from different countries and stakeholder groups to inform sound management and steer Action Plan implementation					
3.1.8. Organize training, workshops and joint monitoring missions for management staff and scientists as well as local people					
3.1.9. Compile a shared data pool with available information on argali ecology and harvest indicating major knowledge gaps and research needs in different languages					

3.1.10. Carry out a thorough genetic analysis to clarify the taxonomy of argali	Maintain high tech lab in the member country	Update as per need	genetic analysis can be done	Difficult to maintain	Skill and well trained staff or training should be given
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Objective 4: To ensure effective implementation of the Action Plan

Result 4.1. An implementation mechanism is established

Action	Action undertaken	Period	Results	Challenges	Further Action required
4.1.1. Develop National Action Plans for argali and integrate these into National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans	Species conservation action plan is needed to develop	5 years	Results in its conservation with targeted activities within the given period of time	Budget constraints to carry out the different activities for its conservation to meet the set up goals	Collaboration with conservation partner and local communities
4.1.2. Conduct periodic meetings of range states to share experiences, evaluate success and adapt management plans accordingly	Party to CMS Active participation in the periodic meetings, seminar and workshops	As per need or call from CMS	Knowledge and success story sharing		
4.1.3. Establish a dedicated argali page using the CMS website and a mailing list to facilitate information sharing and coordination of joint activities	Focal point need to be selected	All time	Quick response and collaboration	Quick Change of focal person Institutional memory gap	Regular reporting and annual reporting system for institutional memory
4.1.4. Designate national lead agency and argali contact points responsible for coordinating argali conservation and management policy and implementation of the action plan in each range state	Focal point need to be selected	All time	Quick response and collaboration	Quick Change of focal person Institutional memory gap	Regular reporting and annual reporting system for institutional memory
4.1.5. Identify a suitable mechanism for the coordination and revision of the Action Plan implementation activities including developing terms of	Webinar or physical meeting	As per need	Contribution of range countries and ownership of all	Physical meeting regularly may not be possible	Zoom or webinar

reference for the argali working group					
4.1.6. Establish a formal cooperation agreement or Memorandum of Understanding on argali among range states	Should be state in the convention of CMS	After party to CMS	Bound the member to submit required document or reports periodically to the secretariat	Response and reply from secretariat	
4.1.7. Submit range state monitoring data every two years for publication on the CMS argali web page	It is needed by the member country through national focal point	Every 2 years	Data base maintain	National priority	Member country should give it priority
4.1.8. Secure funding for sustainable financing of Action Plan activities	Collaboration with funding agencies and CMS secretariat	regularly	Secure fund		
4.1.9. Review and adapt or revise the action plan at regular intervals	It is needed to revise and amend regularly	5 years of period	New activities can be set to meet the target objectives	Sometime some range countries may not be able to meet the previously set objectives	Regular guidance and coordination is needed