



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
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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**

PAKISTAN

**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:	Pakistan
1.2. Designated Focal Point (full contact details):	Mr. Muhammad Samar Hussain Khan, Conservator Wildlife, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Government of Pakistan, LG&RD Complex, G-5/2, Islamabad, Pakistan. Email: samar_baloch@yahoo.com
1.3. Date submitted:	<u>29.06.2024</u> dd/mm/yyyy
1.4. Period covered by the report:	From: <u>December, 2009</u> To: <u>24th June 2024</u> dd/mm/yyyy dd/mm/yyyy
1.5. List of agencies or NGOs that have provided input to this report:	Gilgit-Baltistan Forest and Wildlife Department, Snow Leopard Foundation, Pakistan, WWF-Pakistan

2. ARGALI POPULATIONS

2.1. Is the Argali population monitored in your country?

Yes

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

Fixed Point-Direct Count Method and Transect Method.

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

Pakistan has the smallest population of Marco Polo Sheep which is reported to migrate in summers from China to Khunjerab National Park, Gilgit-Baltistan. The population is monitored in Pakistan but not on regular basis.

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

There is occasional monitoring of the species is undertaken by the Gilgit-Baltistan Forest and Wildlife Department in collaboration with some universities and NGOs like Snow Leopard Foundation, Pakistan and WWF-Pakistan.

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

Both methods are used, depending on the survey area.

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

There are few studies on existing population of the species however, exact current status is unknown.

- J. Haider, M.Z. Khan, M. Anwer, S. Ali, H. Ali, 2018. Population status and migration trends of Marco Polo argali (*Ovis ammon polii*) in Pakistan, *Mammalia*, 82 (2018), pp. 481-485, 10.1515/mammalia-2017-012
- M. Zafar, B. Khan, E. Khan, A. Garee, A. Khan, A. Rehmat, E. Hussain, 2014. Abundance distribution and conservation of key ungulate species in Hindu Kush Karakoram and western Himalayan (HKH) mountain ranges of Pakistan, *International Journal of Agriculture and Biology*, 16 (6) (2014).

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?

The monitoring records/survey reports of Argali are kept and maintained by the Gilgit-Baltistan Forest and Wildlife Department and NGOs.

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

N/A

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The species is protected under the relevant provincial/territorial wildlife laws. The protected areas in the distribution areas provide safe habitat for the species. Field staff ensure effective enforcement of law through watch and ward 	2014-2024	No case of poaching reported during the reporting period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness of habitat areas with harsh climate and difficult access Capacity issues of field staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of field staff Research and monitoring of the species to fill data gaps
1.1.2. Strengthen management capacity of trophy hunting concessions and clearly define hunting zones and seasons	<u>Trophy hunting of the species is not allowed in Pakistan.</u> However, community-based trophy hunting programme for other ungulates (Markhor, Ibex and Blue sheep) is being implemented in Pakistan.				
1.1.3. Provide relevant training and equipment for law enforcement officers, PA staff, and others	Training and capacity building of field staff is a regular component of different projects being implemented by government and NGOs/donors.				

1.1.4. Report poaching incidents to mass media and CMS	No formal reports received yet.				
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	Seized specimens are confiscated and disposed as per wildlife laws, however no exclusive policy for the species has been developed so far.				
1.1.6. Address the threat of livestock-wildlife disease transmission through vaccination of livestock in appropriate cases, effective exclusion of livestock from PAs, health monitoring of argali and contiguous livestock populations	Livestock vaccination programme is a regular component of different projects being implemented by government and NGOs/donors. For example, Snow Leopard Foundation Pakistan has been implementing "Ecosystem Health Program (EHP)" which aims to protect local livelihoods by protecting livestock against major diseases and creating a participatory community-based veterinary service available at the community door steps.	2014-2024	The Ecosystem Health Program (EHP) is being implemented across 42 Valleys in Northern Pakistan. Over 100 community Ecosystem Health Workers have been trained in livestock disease management. More than 600000 livestock belonging to 32,000 households have been vaccinated biannually. In a recent review of the programme revealed up to 60% reduction in the mortality rate of livestock at the program sites	Financial constraints after completion of the projects.	Dedicated funds to be allocated for continuity of the programme.

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	Under community-based trophy hunting programme of other ungulates, communities are involved in community-based conservation activities including watch and ward and surveys for all species.				
1.2.2. Promote long-term assignment of management rights to communities	N/A				
1.2.3. Ensure that a percentage of hunting revenues is dedicated to argali conservation	Marco Polo Sheep is not included in the community-based trophy hunting programme. However, revenue generated through trophy hunting of other ungulates is used for community-based conservation activities in which all species including Marco Polo Sheep is benefitted.				
1.2.4. Ensure the equitable benefit sharing of revenues from trophy hunting to local communities	80% of the revenue generated through community-based trophy hunting programme goes to local communities, which is used on community-based conservation activities and socio-economic uplift of the communities.				
1.2.5. Promote sustainable community-based wildlife management programmes / trophy hunting programmes	Community-based trophy hunting programme of selected ungulates (excluding Argali) is being				

	successfully implemented in the country.				
1.2.6. Ensure sustainable harvest of argali and compliance with CITES, EU regulation and the US Endangered Species Act	N/A				
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	The annual quota for community-based trophy hunting programme is issued by the CITES Management Authority of Pakistan based on population surveys of the species. Further allocation of license / hunting permit and allocation of hunting areas is managed by the respective provincial/territorial wildlife department. The same documentary evidence for record is submitted by the provincial authorities while recommending the international export of hunted trophies by the international hunters.				
1.2.8. Coordinate the allocation of quotas in trans-boundary populations among range states	N/A				
1.2.9. Training law enforcement staff in implementation of CITES regulations, identification of argali products and techniques for countering illegal trade	Such training and capacity-building activities are organized under some government and donor funded projects.			Financial constraints after completion of projects to continue such activities.	Such trainings for field staff are required to be continued.

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	Rangelands are generally managed under the Gilgit Baltistan Forest Act, 2019. However, there are no such dedicated activities for Argali.				
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 Community Conservation Incentive Agreements	N/A				
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	N/A				
2.1.4. Increase the effectiveness of protected area networks and hunting concessions for argali (including transboundary), their coverage and interconnectivity	A system of PAs exists in the known habitat of the species.				
2.1.5. Provide adequate transport, equipment, and training to protected areas and rangers	Capacity building of field staff is a regular component of government and donor funded projects.				

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
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2.2.1. Increase energy efficiency and use of alternative fuel by local households to reduce the collection of fuel wood (e.g. teresken)	Such activities are undertaken under government and donor funded projects.				
2.2.2 Development of temporal and spatial restrictions on livestock grazing and hay making to ensure adequate forage for argali during critical seasons	Rangelands are generally managed under the Gilgit Baltistan Forest Act, 2019. However, there are no such dedicated activities for Argali.				

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

Action	Action undertaken	Period	Results	Challenges	Further Action required
2.3.1. Work with local herders to reduce the threat of guard and feral dogs preying on argali lambs	N/A				
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	The habitat areas of the species are covered under PAs network. Field staff ensure protection of the species through watch and ward.				

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	EIAs and SEAs are mandatory for all major development project in the habitat areas.				
2.4.2. Ensure compliance with International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standard 6 to	EIAs and SEAs are mandatory for all major development project and				

reduce the negative impact on biodiversity of infrastructure developments and apply appropriate suitable mitigation measures	mitigation measures are proposed of their possible impacts on biodiversity of the area.				
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	In EIAs of such projects, measures are suggested to ensure connectivity and to remove barriers.				

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	Capacity building of field staff is a regular component of government and donor funded projects.				
2.5.2. Engage international agencies that provide common platforms for knowledge sharing and best practices	Pakistan is a member of relevant biodiversity-related Conventions and forums like; CMS, CITES, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, IPBES, Convention on Biological Diversity, Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP) and South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and others.				
2.5.3. Facilitate transboundary activities including information exchange on trade and use, joint	Pakistan is a member of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network				

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	(SAWEN) which is a dedicated forum to curb illegal wildlife trade.				
2.5.4. Establish data sharing protocols and regularly submit information to the CMS Secretariat	N/A				

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	N/A				
3.1.2. Develop a best-practice manual for argali monitoring using standardised techniques and promote its use in all Range States	N/A				
3.1.3. Implement robust monitoring programs for all argali populations	N/A				
3.1.4. Monitor and study argali and its habitat to improve management	There is occasional monitoring of the species by Gilgit-Baltistan Forest and Wildlife Department in collaboration with some universities and NGOs like Snow Leopard Foundation,				

	Pakistan and WWF-Pakistan.				
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	N/A				
3.1.6. Determine national capacity needs, in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities	N/A				
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	N/A				
3.1.8. Organize training, workshops and joint monitoring missions for management staff and scientists as well as local people	N/A				
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	N/A				
3.1.10. Carry out a thorough genetic analysis to clarify the taxonomy of argali	N/A				

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	N/A				
4.1.2. Conduct periodic meetings of range states to share experiences, evaluate success and adapt management plans accordingly	N/A				
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	N/A				
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	Contact points and lead agency is designated.				
4.1.5. Identify a suitable mechanism for the coordination and revision of the Action Plan implementation activities including developing terms of reference for the argali working group	N/A				
4.1.6. Establish a formal cooperation agreement or Memorandum of Understanding on argali among range states	N/A				
4.1.7. Submit range state monitoring data every two years for publication on the CMS argali web page	N/A				

4.1.8. Secure funding for sustainable financing of Action Plan activities	N/A				
4.1.9. Review and adapt or revise the action plan at regular intervals	N/A				