

19.53 Management and Protection of Mountain Ungulates belonging to the Sub-Family Caprinae

NOTING the preliminary results of the long-term efforts of two expert groups to compile data on the current status of the mountain ungulates belonging to the sub-family Caprinae;

AWARE that the Caprini Working Group of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation has finished its data collection, which began in 1989, including taxonomy, distribution and abundance of Caprinae and which it will soon publish under the title *Caprinae Atlas*;

AWARE also that the IUCN/SSC Caprinae Specialist Group has finished its global survey of the distribution and status of Caprinae as part of its Action Plan, which began in 1988 and which will soon be published to present the conservation needs of Caprinae in each country;

RECOGNIZING that:

- whereas the taxonomy, status and ecology of the species living in Europe and in North America have been the object of detailed studies, there is only limited information on other species, especially for those populations in the remote mountains of Asia, although these data are vital for both biological and legal reasons;
- there remain several unresolved taxonomic questions regarding especially the subspecies of Argali *Ovis ammon*, and there is limited information on the current distribution and status of most populations;
- in the former Soviet Union (FSU) several populations of Caprinae, including some taxa listed in the former USSR *Red Data Book*, are threatened in consequence of current armed conflict, regional disorder and food shortages in several States;
- within the sub-family Caprinae, the Argali are the most valuable trophy species to foreign hunters, and their economic value is now well recognized by local people;
- this general situation, combined with the fact that important international agreements for the protection of species (notably CITES) have been signed by the former USSR but not by all the successor States, has unfortunately provided the ideal conditions for the uncontrolled and rapid development of foreign hunting programmes which do not all respect the principles of sustainable use;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to support the efforts of the two Caprinae expert groups to encourage, promote, plan and finance studies on the taxonomy and biology of Caprinae from Asia;
2. URGES the CITES Secretariat:
 - (a) to contact the States of the FSU and to encourage them to adopt CITES as a legal instrument for nature conservation within their borders;
 - (b) to cooperate with and use the work and expertise of the two Caprinae expert groups for dealing with taxonomic problems and studying the situation of Caprinae in the successor States of the FSU with the particular aim of assisting the resource managers of those States in their management of the species in accordance

with the
concepts and practices of sustainable use.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Norway and United States indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.