

International Round Table Sustainable Use and Conservation of Wildlife in Tajikistan

2-3 November 2016, Dushanbe-Tajikistan

Resolution

Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, governmental and scientific institutions, private sector and community-based organisations, the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), implementing programs on behalf of the German government, international and domestic non-governmental organizations, as well as a panel of experts came together to:

1. discuss the current situation in wildlife management in the Republic of Tajikistan, its potentials and pitfalls for achieving sustainable use and conservation, as well as benefits for local communities;
2. identify ways to strengthen collaboration in wildlife management between different groups of resource users (e.g. private hunting concessionaries and community-based organizations) and other interested national and international stakeholders;
3. advance a common understanding of various international regulatory frameworks (CITES, EU, USA), as well as harmonization of national legislation with the requirements of relevant international treaties, arranging necessary training and seminars, including on the rules and requirements on exporting and importing trophies, benefit sharing schemes, transparency and accountability of wildlife management, sustainable hunting, and monitoring;
4. strengthen general understanding among stakeholders involved in wildlife management in Tajikistan on responsibilities and necessary commitments to the sustainable use of wildlife and contribution to biodiversity conservation and local socio-economic development.

The participants of the round table:

Acknowledge the importance of long-term conservation of wildlife in Tajikistan, including such iconic species as snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*), Asiatic ibex (*Capra sibirica*), markhor (*Capra falconeri*), Marco Polo sheep (*Ovis ammon polii*), Severtsov's argali (*Ovis ammon severtzovi*), Bukhara deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*), goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*), urial sheep (*Ovis vignei bocharensis*), and Ladakh urial (*Ovis vignei vignei*) which are of particular importance for biodiversity conservation worldwide;

Note that many of the species concerned are listed on the Appendices of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Flora and Fauna ([CMS](#)) and under the CMS [Central Asian Mammals Initiative \(CAMI\)](#), and on the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora ([CITES](#));

Recognize contributions of sustainable consumptive (hunting, and in particular trophy hunting and private hunting concessions) and non-consumptive use (tourism) of wildlife to long-term conservation of

mountain ungulates and other species, as well as, delivering a range of socio-economic benefits, including support of rural communities in mountain areas;

Acknowledge a strong connection of local communities to their environment and wildlife and recognize their role in protecting wildlife and right to derive profits from consumptive and non-consumptive use of wildlife in accordance to the existing regulatory framework;

Noting the progress of the government of the Republic of Tajikistan in improving legal and management frameworks for wildlife conservation and hunting, including the accession to CITES, strengthening the role of science in the decision-making and developing a dialogue among national stakeholders involved in wildlife management and conservation;

Encourage all interested stakeholders to strengthen the national dialogue on sustainable use and long-term conservation of the wildlife;

Aware of further challenges to wildlife conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in the country, such as weak institutional, staff and financial capacities, insufficiencies of the existing legal framework, weak coordination among the involved state institutions, cases of illegal hunting and poaching, as well as habitat degradation as a result of climate change and overgrazing.

HEREBY the participants of the round table:

Express the will to work together to further improve regulation and management of sustainable use and conservation of wildlife, as well as socio-economic development of the Republic of Tajikistan through further actions:

General actions:

- To preserve key species and their habitats in the Republic of Tajikistan on the basis of existing scientific knowledge on wildlife habitat needs and further incorporate this knowledge into land management policies and practices;
- To develop a university programs and short-term training courses for professionals in wildlife management and conservation to ensure incorporation of modern approaches and principles in this field. In relation to this, explore existing regional and international opportunities for cooperation;
- To support scientific research on conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and its habitats, especially mountain ungulates, including biological and socio-economic implications;
- To develop cooperation among interested stakeholders to promote marketing of hunting and other tourist services in Tajikistan at the international market;
- To strengthen implementation of international commitments of the government of Tajikistan under the CITES and CMS conventions, as well as other relevant initiatives;

Actions specific to hunting and wildlife management:

- To improve procedures of scientifically justified quota definition, as well as transparent quota distribution among all resource users, including allocation of area-specific hunting quotas justified by the monitoring results from the areas managed by the organization;
- To involve experts of national and international scientific and non-governmental organisations in the monitoring of species populations;

- To improve cooperation and capacity of relevant state authorities, including at the local level to combat wildlife crime;
- To ensure exchange of monitoring data and other relevant information among national and international stakeholders;
- To conduct a follow-up round table to check the progress and update priority actions.