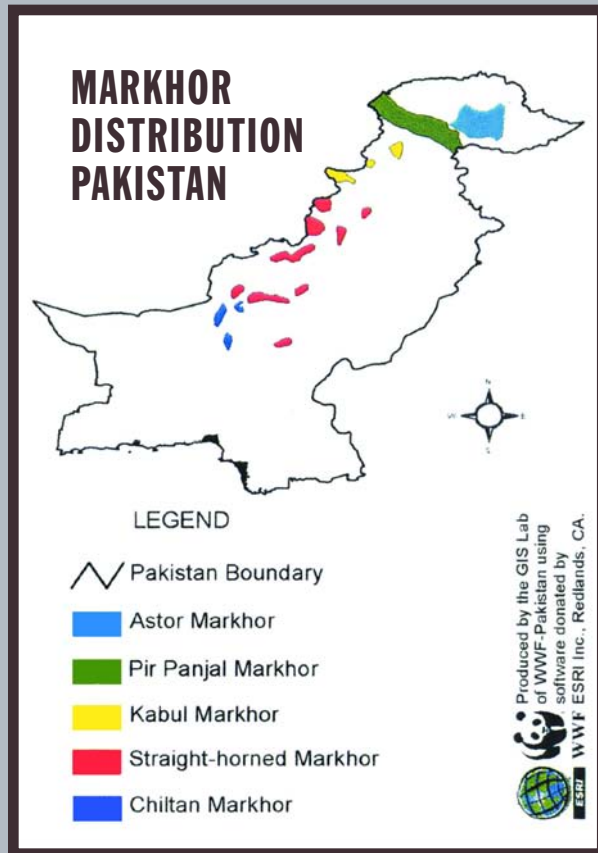


## PAKISTAN

Pakistan is the only country in the world with a CITES trophy quota. All Markhor are on Appendix 1 of CITES. CITES has authorized Pakistan a tourist hunting Markhor quota of 12 annually. It is another instance in which the conservation world recognizes the conservation role of regulated hunting. Pakistan's world-renowned sustainable use program is wholly dependent upon the export/import of those hunting trophies. The program was designed to reduce poaching, create conservation incentives and generate operating revenue for those that will ultimately decide the fate of the Markhor in Pakistan.



## HOW TO SUPPORT THIS CAUSE

**YES, I want to help support the Pakistan Markhor Initiative by making a tax deductible contribution**

Markhor Program \$ \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Dollars

General Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Dollars

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Conservation Force is a 501(c)(3) Public Charitable Foundation

# PAKISTAN MARKHOR INITIATIVE



Mail to:

## CONSERVATION FORCE

3900 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 1045

Metairie, LA 70002 USA

(504) 837-1233

Fax: (504) 837-1145

Email: [jjw-no@att.net](mailto:jjw-no@att.net)

<http://www.conservationforce.org>

# CONSERVATION FORCE

## PAKISTAN MARKHOR INITIATIVE

Conservation Force's *Pakistan Markhor Initiative* has three parts. First, Conservation Force leads the effort to import Markhor in support of Markhor conservation in Pakistan. Conservation Force is assisting trophy import permit applicants as a public service. Second, we are supporting the ESA downlisting of Markhor. Third, biologist Dr. Mike Frisina is overseeing Conservation Force's field review of the status of Markhor and is setting up action plans from area to area and subspecies to subspecies throughout Pakistan. The initiative has the following four objectives:

1. Downlist the Straight-Horned Markhor subpopulations that are listed as endangered under the ESA;
2. Establish trophy import permits for all subspecies and subpopulations of Markhor;
3. Conduct supportive field research and establish management and sustainable use programs from area to area and subspecies to subspecies;
4. Support CITES quota setting, which recently doubled with our assistance. A higher quota means that more tribal areas can participate in the conservation of Markhor, hence more Markhor populations and subspecies will survive.

## PAKISTAN'S MARKHOR

Up to seven subspecies of Markhor have been recognized: Suleiman or Straight-Horned; Kabul; Pir Panjal or Kashmir; Astor; Uzbek; Tajik; and Chiltan. At present, many authorities have narrowed it to three subspecies: Straight-Horned Markhor (Suleiman and Kabul); Flare-Horned Markhor (Kashmir and Astor); and Heptner's Markhor (Uzbek and Chiltan). Only the Astor, Kashmir, Kabul, Suleiman, and Chiltan Markhor live in Pakistan where the species is associated with dry, steep slopes at lower elevations that provide adequate escape terrain and shallow snow cover in winter. Today the conservation of the Markhor, rescued from extinction by "scientific" hunting, is taking place over even wider areas.

## U.S. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

Suleiman, Kabul, and Chiltan Markhor are listed as "endangered" under the ESA. They are also on Appendix 1 of CITES. The USF&WS has not yet downlisted Suleiman Markhor, though a favorable 90 day finding has been made. The Service has also not approved the importation of Kashmir or Astor Markhor, though they are only listed on CITES Appendix 1. The ESA provides that the USF&WS "may" grant import permits of "endangered" species if it is demonstrated that the hunting "enhances" the survival of the species.

## TORGHAR CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Torgar Conservation Project (TCP) is a highly regarded, private, "grassroots" conservation program for Suleiman Markhor and Afghan Urial on Pathan tribal lands in the Torgar Hills (black mountains) of Qilla Saifullah District, Balochistan Province, Pakistan. The project was established in 1985 on the principle of involving local people to create opportunities for employment and economic benefit through tourist hunting. Game guards are appointed to control poaching. Trophy hunting was incorporated into the program to generate sufficient revenue to underwrite the training and employment of game guards and create a strong linkage between the abundance of Urial and Markhor populations and economic well being of the local people. The TCP has been entirely self-sufficient since its inception; depending solely on revenues derived from trophy hunting fees from international hunters. Torgar is also providing a role model to the many communities in various parts of Pakistan as to how to use and protect their natural heritage without jeopardizing its continued existence. In 1985 the Torgar area Markhor population numbered less than 100. Now Torgar is the last strong hold of internationally threatened Straight-Horned Markhor and presently boasts the largest population, 1648, and still increasing.

## HOW TO IMPORT YOUR TROPHY

- 1 Complete a USF&WS CITES "Appendix 1/endangered" species trophy import permit application available from Conservation Force. We will help you complete the application free of charge.
- 2 We need written authorization to be your legal representative. We will provide you with that authorization form.
- 3 The USF&WS has a special ESA rule that requires a finding of "enhancement" before issuing a permit to import Markhor hunting trophies. In response to No. 6 in your permit application you should reply, "Please refer to the enhancement information already provided by Conservation Force and Pakistan authorities."
- 4 Copy us with your application and all correspondence you get from the USF&WS, particularly the permit application number you are assigned.

Please contact us and let us help you free of charge

