

ADDENDUM 1

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS

(arising from ScC-SC8)

**PROPOSAL FOR THE REMOVAL OF
THE BUKHARA DEER (*CERVUS ELAPHUS YARKANDENSIS*)
FROM APPENDIX I OF THE CONVENTION**

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.4

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15

The Scientific Council recommends COP15 to not adopt the proposal, unless satisfactory additional information is provided, as specified hereunder.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee noted that recovery of population numbers to the point where the reduction of the level of protection can be contemplated is a cause for celebration, however, caution needs to be exercised, because considering the lifespan of Bukhara deer, the recovery of populations is relatively recent. It is important to make sure that measures are in place to avoid further population decline.

The Sessional Committee also remarked that there is lack of clarity about the taxonomic scope of the proposal (with the Bukhara deer in the proposal referred to as a population of the Yarkand deer *Cervus elaphus yarkandensis*, while the MoU refers to the species as a population of *C. e. bactrianus*) and requested the proponents to provide additional information on this and the inconsistencies concerning the taxonomy and its references.

It is recommended that the proponent provides additional information in a separate document from their proposal as soon as possible, but no later than 22 January 2026, in particular:

- 1) Clarify the taxonomy (including subspecies name used by IUCN and subspecies name used by CMS and the Bukhara Deer MOU),
- 2) Report population numbers consistently providing more data (e.g. standard deviation, confidence limits, effort made, detection probability, methods used, demographics, distribution etc.) and refer to numbers reported in the Overview Report prepared for the Third Meeting of Signatories to the Bukhara Deer MOU. It was noted that the methodology described by Cornelis, et. al (2020) in "Estimation of Bukhara red deer (*Cervus hanglu bactrianus*) population in Lower Amu Darya State Biosphere Reserve: mission report" might be useful,
- 3) Explain how sustainable use, extractive (hunting) or non-extractive (e.g. wildlife-watching), if planned, will benefit local communities and motivate them to conserve the Bukhara deer, as recommended by the study "Potential for community-based wildlife management in Central Asia", prepared for the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the CMS Secretariat,
- 4) Based on the additional information provided, clearly explain why the species is no longer endangered and why it is not likely to become endangered again due to loss of protection from removal from App I as per article III.3 of the Convention.