

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Bos grunniens* in Appendix I

B. PROPONENT

Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Mammalia

1.2 Artiodactyla

1.3 Bovidae

1.4 *Bos grunniens* (Przewalski, 1883)

1.5 Common names: Wild Yak (English)  
Wildjak (German)  
Yak (French)  
Jak (Russian)

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution: Formerly found from the Karakoram eastward along the Kuenlun Mountains of Chinese Turkestan to Altyn Tagh and the Nan Shan Range of extreme western China. Once common in the high valleys of the Nan Shan Range and in Kansu, near the sources of the Etsin Gol and Tatung Gol, but absent in the Koko Nor basin and the salt steppes of Tsaidam, Chinghai; on the high plateaux of Tibet north of the Himalayas, from Kashmir in the southwest to the Koko Nor region in the northeast at altitudes of 4,500 m and above. Now restricted to scattered locations on the Tibetan plateaux and adjacent highlands. Sightings have been reported from remote areas of Nepal and Sikkim, and it was recorded in 1970 in Khumbrang Nola of Chang-chen-mo, Ladakh, Kashmir.

2.2 Population: Total numbers in the wild unknown. Populations have undergone a marked reduction from hunting by armed forces and local people equipped with modern firearms. The remaining herds are scattered and isolated in the most remote areas of their former range.

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- 2.3 Habitat: The Alpine tundra and the ice desert regions of the Tibetan plateaux, at altitudes of 4,000 - 6,000 m. These barren mountain ranges are remote and above the zones of human habitation.
- 2.4 Migration: Seasonal migrations in border areas, also vertical, especially from summer to winter quarters as well as to feeding grounds.

### 3. Threat data

- 3.1 Direct threat to the population: Since the inhabitants of the area where the animal occurs, especially the herdsmen, were equipped with firearms, the species is time and again shot, even in areas where it is officially protected. In some areas young animals are likely to be taken into the villages for the purpose of domestication or slaughtering.
- 3.2 Habitat destruction: No detailed information available; it can, however, be taken for granted that intensification of livestock breeding, including its expansion to higher-lying mountain areas, is a competition for the wild yaks.
- 3.3 Indirect threat: Danger that crossing of domestic and wild yaks might take place in the wild.
- 3.4 Threat especially connected with migrations: Not known.

### 4. Protection status and needs

- 4.1 National protection status: Officially protected by the Chinese Government. Partially protected (may be hunted on licence at the discretion of the Chief Wildlife Warden) in India under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.
- 4.2 International protection status: Importation into the United States is prohibited, except for scientific, educational or propagation purposes, under the terms of the U.S. Endangered Species Act, 1969.

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4.3 Additional protection needs: It is absolutely necessary to stop shooting effectively; it would be necessary to create large-scale protected areas. This, however, would require a more detailed faunistic-ecological inventory of the residual populations.

5. Range states

Bhutan, China, India, Nepal

6. Comments from range states

None

7. Additional remarks

The species is listed in the IUCN Red Data Book (1978) as being "endangered".

8. References

Goodwin et al. (1978): IUCN Red Data Book, Vol. 1 - Mammalia. -  
Morges (IUCN) - see page 19.128.6.4

Grzimek, B. et al. (1968): Grzimek's Tierleben, Vol. 13.  
- Zürich (Kindler) - see pages 383-386