



GSJ: Volume 13, Issue 6, June 2025, Online: ISSN 2320-9186

www.globalscientificjournal.com

Status of Capra aegagrus wild goat inhabit kirthar national Park

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Abstract:

Stretching from Jamshoro district to Karachi, Kirthar National Park is the third-largest national park, after the Hingol national park Balochistan & the Karakoram National Park located in northern Gilgit-Baltistan region. A survey was carried out to determine the condition of *Capra aegagrus*, which was visited in the winter. January of 2025, The zoological survey of Pakistan Islamabad and the wild life team of Kirthar National Park kindly cooperated to acquire the data used in the surveys. Wildlife officials claim that the past ten years have been critical in terms of the rise in the wild goat population, which is Sindh's national animal. In the last ten years, the Sindh ibex population (in Kirthar National Park) has grown by more than 10,000 animals. In 1978, when the number of wild goats reached close to 2,000, the park authorities were tasked with improving the population. The Bovidae family is related to Sindh ibex. There are 143 species in the diverse family Bovidae, with sizes ranging from the 3-kilogram (kg) royal antelope to the 1,200-kg gaur. In addition to 30 nations in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, bovids are present throughout mainland Africa. Only the African continent has the four subfamilies; neither Australia nor Antarctica is home to any of them, and

only bison (*Bison bison*) are indigenous to the Americas. Because of conservation initiatives and a hunting restriction, the population has grown dramatically in recent years. Over the last forty years, the population has increased from less than 2,000 to 20,000, according to the Express Tribune. Additionally, Anadolu Ajansı notes that within the past ten years, the population has grown by more than 10,000. Focusing on elements like as dangers, geographic range, and population patterns. Bovids vary greatly in size; the gaur, for example, can weigh over 1,500 kg (3,300 lb) and have a shoulder height of 2.2 m (87 in). In stark contrast, the royal antelope weighs no more than 3 kg (6.6 lb) and stands barely 25 cm (9.8 in) tall. The Asian unicorn, often known as the spindlehorn, is the saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*). One of the rarest big mammals in the world, the spindlehorn, Asian unicorn, or, less frequently, Vu Quang bovid is a forest-dwelling bovine indigenous to the Annamite Range in Vietnam and Laos.

Introduction

Kirthar National Park, Pakistan's one of the largest National Parks, was established in 1974. This park was primarily established to protect and conserve wild goats and wild sheeps of Sindh. The famous wild goats of Sindh, the Sindh Ibex *Capra hircus blythi*, locally known as Sarah, whose population was rapidly dwindling, have been restored in this park. This park covers 3,087 kilometres (1200 miles), with roughly one-third of it in Malir District and two-thirds in Jamshoro District. It includes two wildlife sanctuaries, Hub Wildlife Sanctuary and Mahal Koistan Wildlife Sanctuary, as well as three game reserves: Surjan, Sumbak, Erri, and Hathiano. This park also has two information centres for academics and visitors: the Khar Centre and the Karchat Centre. Khar Centre is located in Malir District, about two hours' drive from downtown Karachi, while Karchat Centre is located in Jamshoro District, about two hours' drive from Thana Bola Khan. The present

population of Sindh Ibex is around 50,000. *Capra aegagrus blythi*, often known as the Sindh ibex or Turkman wild goat, is a vulnerable subspecies of wild goat found in southwest Pakistan and southeast Iran. The ibex is a goat with dramatic, sweeping horns, and is the model for the Sagittarius sign in the zodiac. It is impossible to mistake this distinctive denizen of the high mountains for any other ungulate. The ibex found around Ladakh have long been considered genetically the same as the Siberian ibex. Sindh ibex related with family bovidae. The diverse family Bovidae consists of 143 known species, ranging in size from the 3-kilogram (kg) royal antelope to the 1200-kg gaur. Bovids are found across all of mainland Africa and in 30 countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Four subfamilies exist only in the African continent; none is native to Australia or Antarctica; and only bison (*Bison bison*) are native to the Americas. Although its population has increased from less than 2,000 to 20,000 over the last forty years, the wild goat, which is indigenous to southwestern Pakistan and southeast Iran, is still considered fragile. The Kirthar mountain range, located in the provinces of southern Sindh and southwestern Balochistan, as well as the nearby Makran range, are among its habitats. The Kirthar National Park, which is home to numerous rare species and the largest habitat for Sindh ibex, is reached via a narrow metalled road a few kilometres before the entrance to Sun, a small city in southern Sindh province, which is about 156 kilometres (95 miles) from the provincial capital and the nation's largest city, Karachi. Given the prior records, the addition of almost 10,000 animals to the Sindh ibex population (at Kirthar National Park) during the last ten years is quite encouraging, Kirthar National Park conservator Wali Mohammad Birahmani told Anadolu Agency. In 1978, when the number of wild goats reached close to 2,000, the park officials were tasked with improving the population. According to Birahmani, poaching and hunting, as well

as the local populations' ignorance of the threat to the animal, caused the population growth to be mediocre in the early years.

Material and Method:

The majority of the wildlife protected areas were visited on a regular basis in January of 2025. The surveys were conducted using data collected through the kind cooperation of the zoological survey of Pakistan Islamabad and the wild life team of Kirthar National Park. The team's opinions are that the area is visited annually to gather data on the occurrence, distribution, and habitats of the biodiversity of the area, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and plants, especially for the IEE/EIA studies for development activities in the Province occasionally. Data were also collected during Wildlife Monitoring studies for the official record. The horns of bovids can be helical, curved, or straight. The spirals can extend back towards the tail or forward over the head, and they can be simple or complicated (Figures 7.1 and 7.2). The bony core of the hollow cattle horns is connected with the frontal bone cavity. Wild sheep and goats have horns, but the males' horns are always bigger than the females'. (T.J. Robbert, Pakistani Mammals).



Real photo capture of Sindh ibex in natural conditions

The ibex is a goat with dramatic, sweeping horns.



***Capra aegagrus* in male having beared.**



***Capra aegagrus* in natural condition**



Characteristics

Strong limbs that end in large hooves and a relatively stocky build characterize Sindh ibex. With a darker brown mid-dorsal line that runs from between the shoulders to the base of the tail, females and young males are yellowish-brown until their second winter, when they change to reddish-grey. With long, sweeping scimitar-shaped horns that reach a length of 102 cm (40 in) and nearly silver white bodies contrasted with a sooty grey chest, throat, and face, mature males are incredibly gorgeous. Males' hind neck and body area have more white hairs as they get older. Even in adult males, the summer coat's hair is coarse and short, with a more reddish-buff hue. Females have no beard, while men have short beards. In adult males, the beard, forepart of the face, and belly and outside of the lower limbs can range from black to rich chestnut-brown. Additionally, adult males have a noticeable black stripe that runs from the withers down the front of the shoulders and blends in with the black chest. The face pattern of older males is dark. The tips of the horns typically diverge, and they sweep upward and outward with a pronounced keel in front.

Reproduction

The Sindh ibex's reproductive behaviors are poorly understood. Wild goats are typically polygynous breeders, meaning that a single male will mate with multiple females. Typically, the mating season lasts from November through January. Males struggle for the privilege to mate during this time, and they also release greasy secretions from their skin that attract females. Older males can push younger males out of maternal herds during the rut. Females give birth to one to three children in late June to mid-July, with average gestation duration of 170 days. Children are usually weaned after six months of age and are mobile practically immediately after birth. Males begin to reproduce when they are 3.5–4 years old, whereas young females reach reproductive maturity at 1.5–2.5 years

old. Khirthar National Park is home to other mammals. These are only the species of large animals that have been identified through research in the Khirthar area; there may be additional species, including smaller mammals and other fauna, in the area. (*Ovis vignei*) Urial. (*Gazella bennettii*) Chinkara. (*Vulpes vulpes*) Red Fox. (*Vulpes bengalensis*) Indian Fox. 20 *Felis silvestris*, a desert cat. *Felis Chaus*, Jungle Cat. Native American jackal: *Canis aureus*. The male Sindh Ibex has long ears, big horns, and a massive body. Females have little horns and smaller bodies. In these regions, Sindh Ibex shots often have a size of 37.

Result

A species' label or classification that indicates its risk of extinction is known as its conservation status. About 30,000 Sindh ibex are thought to live in Kirthar National Park. The ibex population changed during the four years. The number of ibexes found decreased from 720 in 2019 and 2020 (male to female ratios of 1:1.21 and 710) to 550 in 2019 and 2020 (male to female ratios of 1:1.35 and 548, respectively). In Kirthar National Park, there are an estimated 30,000 Sindh ibex. The wild goat, Sindh's national animal, has seen a significant increase in population over the past ten years, according to wildlife authorities. According to Kirthar National Park conservator Wali Mohammad Birahmani, "more than 10,000 animals have been added to the population of Sindh ibex (at Kirthar National Park) during the past 10 years, which is a highly encouraging sign, considering the previous records," he told Anadolu Agency. In 1978, when the number of wild goats reached close to 2,000, the park officials were tasked with improving the population. Because of conservation initiatives and a hunting restriction, the population has grown dramatically in recent years. Over the last forty years, the population has increased from less than 2,000 to 20,000, according to the Express Tribune. Additionally, Anadolu Ajansı notes that within the past ten years, the

population has grown by more than 10,000. depending on elements such as geographic range as well as dangers. It is estimated that there are 5,700 mature Markhor people in the world. The species' population in Pakistan has been growing despite its endangered status, primarily as a result of conservation initiatives. The current estimate in Pakistan ranges from 3,500 to 5,000.

Conclusion and discussion.

Conservation activities must be prioritized to preserve the long-term viability of the Sindh ibex population. Conservation efforts should be prioritized for those members affected by heat stroke and virus illness. According to a survey study published in the media, more than 20 to 40 goats perished as a result of viral illness in Kirthar National Park. Ibex have been subjected to hunting pressures, human encroachment on habitat, and overgrazing by domestic livestock, and the total population of ibex in KNP was as low as 200 until legal protection was implemented in 1967 (Robert 1997). Interference by tourists and locals creates psychological dangers, disrupting his social activities; they are always afraid of threats. There was no concern paid to the health of the Sindh ibex. According to Wikipedia, the Sindh ibex population in Kirthar National Park is estimated to be approximately 30,000 individuals. The Sindh ibex is currently not listed on the IUCN Red List, and its conservation status has not been assessed. Natural ecosystems should be protected and managed effectively. Hunting has had a significant impact on its population throughout time, and its natural predators include leopards, eagles, jungle cats, and wolves. Ibex have unusually strong horns and muscular legs. The body coat is a light sandy brown, with a white underbelly and prominent black-and-white patterns on the legs. A male Sindh ibex. There are two varieties of ibex in Pakistan. Sindh and Balochistan. The male horn of the Sindh Ibex can grow to reach 1 metre long. Khirthar National Park,

founded by the Government of Sindh in 1974, is globally recognised for sustaining a healthy population of a number of endangered species and is classified as a Category II protected area under IUCN guidelines. Sindh ibex (*Capra aegagrus*) is the most prevalent ungulate in KNP, and it is classified as vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.

Global population: The world population is projected to be around 5,700 adult individuals. **Pakistan's Situation:** The Markhor population in Pakistan has grown steadily during the last decade. This is credited to proactive conservation efforts and community involvement. **Current Estimate in Pakistan:** Pakistan's current estimated population ranges between 3,500 and 5,000. **Why the increase?** The rise in Pakistan is caused by variables such as: **Reduced Hunting:** As people become more aware of unlawful hunting methods, hunting has decreased.

Community Involvement: Community-based conservation efforts, such as those managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), have been effective in recovering Markhor populations and encouraging sustainable lives. Trophy hunting revenues are reinvested in conservation activities, including habitat development. Markhor may be found in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, namely in the Chitral, Kohistan, and Kalam areas. Gilgit-Baltistan area. Balochistan Province. Parts of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

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