



## “Wildlife Management Across Borders”

### CIC Symposium

### Sustainable Use Programs in Central Asia:

### Conservation of Wildlife through Benefit for Local People

Bishkek, 30<sup>th</sup> October



## PATRONAGE:

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H.E. Askar Akaev, *President of Kyrgyzstan*

H.E. Dr. Jacques Diouf, *Director-General*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

## BACKGROUND:

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As ecological ‘hotspots’, mountain areas host thousands of endemic plant and animal species and originate more than half of the world’s freshwater reserves. Despite this natural richness, the ecosystem is fragile and its biodiversity vulnerable to irreversible loss and degradation, due to both natural and man-made processes.

The United Nations’ *Year of the Mountains* (IYM) champions initiatives that enable mountain communities to improve their quality of life while conserving globally important biodiversity. During the IYM, a great diversity of events already took place, including meetings at local to global levels.

The Bishkek Global Mountain Summit (BGMS) will be the final global event of the International Year of Mountains 2002 and will bring together many of those who have participated in these meetings, drawing on their collective experience and the concrete outputs developed in many venues around the world.



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BGMS participants could agree on concrete actions to ensure sustainable development and management of mountain regions in the 21st century.

Within this context, the CIC Symposium focuses on practical methods of sustainable use of wild living resources in mountain areas, under the clear understanding that certain responsible human use even increases biodiversity.

Today, biodiversity conservation planning promotes sustainable use of natural resources as a prominent tool for conservation: wild species represent a distinct economic value for the benefit of local populations i.e. Himalayan ibex (*Capra ibex sibirica*), flared-horned markhor (*Capra falconeri falconeri*), etc. Consequently, conservation efforts especially directed at species of economic value and their habitats also benefit the whole range of biodiversity accruing in the ecosystem. Out of a broad range of conservation tools, community-based hunting tourism provides a strong economic incentive for the local communities to preserve wildlife and their cultural heritage (i.e. falconry).

Key ecological and evolutionary processes operate over large spatial and long temporal scales. Therefore, in order to preserve ecological interactions and evolutionary mechanisms generating and maintaining species, conservationists must think and plan at the scales at which nature operates.

CIC’s approach of *Cross-border Wildlife Management* already successfully implemented in other geographical areas directly aim at this. Following i.e. the widely accepted ecoregion concept (large areas of land/water with relatively uniform climatic conditions and a characteristic set of species and ecological communities), CIC focuses its attention on conservation areas across political boundaries, thereby encouraging international co-operation and giving attention to networks of key sites, migrating corridors, etc.

CIC’s role is to serve as a catalyst. It works to forge true partnerships with and among governments, NGO’s, indigenous communities and grassroots organizations. The SCI International Conservation Foundation Prominent is a prominent partner here, which underwrites the same goals and objectives.

## OBJECTIVES:

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Various international bodies (GEF, UNDP, IUCN) are working with sustainable use programmes to increase livelihood and fight poverty of local mountain communities. Out of many examples, GEF and IUCN jointly run a project in Pakistan to sustainably manage an endangered ibex population by generating hunting revenues that support village funds.

Many countries of the region have gained in the past experiences to be communicated and brought together. The Symposium, consequently aims at the following:

- Provide an overview of community-based wildlife conservation and management projects in the region;
- Create local populations and key officials’ understanding of the critical components (legal aspects, administration, etc.);



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- Bring forward challenges of poverty and degradation of natural resources that mountain communities face, and to find workable solutions;
- Facilitate transboundary co-operation for tourism-based hunting (through harmonisation of laws, etc.).
- Promote policies and programs on realistic pricing of the sustainable use of mountain wildlife resources through understanding resource flows to and from mountain communities;
- Raise awareness of the need to recognise and protect the mosaic of local cultures, indigenous knowledge, spiritual beliefs and traditions, hunting being part of it.

## PARTICIPATING STATES:

Afghanistan, China, Kazakhstan,  
Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan,  
Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan,

*Observers: Russia, Turkey*



## CONVENERS:

*International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)*

in cooperation with:

- FAO
- UNEP
- UNDP/GEF
- IUCN
- IUCN SSC/Central Asian Sustainable Use Specialist Group
- WWF
- Asian Caprinae Conservation Cooperative
- Orion Foundation for Threatened Indigenous Hunters Fishers and Gatherers and Their Habitat
- Brown Monson Foundation
- SCI International Conservation Foundation
- and the assistance of GTZ



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### **TIME & VENUE:**

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30<sup>th</sup> October 2002, 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the *Bishkek Global Mountain Summit*  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan – exact venue to be announced by the Office of the President in due time.

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

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Top-level administrative staff of the eight countries;

- Government officials in charge of wildlife conservation and management, CITES Scientific and Management Authorities from Range States and Scientific Programs;
- Representatives of partner organizations
- Invited observers:
  - US AID Programs
  - The World Bank
  - WWF Russia & Large Herbivore Project

### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS:**

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Delegates are most welcome to present technical papers during the Symposium on topic(s) related to the objectives and broad themes given above.

- Language: English
- Abstracts formatted in MS Word in Times New Roman, Font Size 12, single-spaced on A4 size paper
- 1” margins on all sides of paper

Abstract/Final Paper will be required by e-mail and hard copy (to the contact address given below) along with two passport size photos of the author.

Deadline for abstracts is 15<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

### **REGISTRATION FEE:**

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No registration fee required



## **CONTACT:**

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## **DRAFT AGENDA**

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- 1) Welcoming address by H.E. Askar Akaev, President of Kyrgyzstan
- 2) Addresses by representatives from FAO, UNEP, UNDP, IUCN, CIC
- 3) Wildlife conservation and cultural hunting Heritage in Central Asia
- 4) Sustainable use of wildlife: benefit for local communities & important tool for conservation in Central Asia (country cases)
- 5) Key Issues Requiring Cooperation Across Borders