

## Transfer of *Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata* from Appendix I to Appendix II

### Proponent: Denmark (on behalf of the European Union Member States acting in the interest of the European Union)

**Summary:** *Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata* is a subspecies of chamois, or goat antelope, endemic to Italy, where it occurs in four isolated populations, estimated at around 1500 individuals in total, having increased from around 250-300 in the early 1970s. Three of these populations are part of re-introduction programmes, with one of them numbering only a few animals, as the introduction process is still under way. The global population is stable or increasing though one relatively large sub-population peaked at 645 individuals in 2005, but has since stabilized at around 500. The main potential threats to the taxon include effects related to its small population size, low genetic variability, competition for space and food with livestock and the transmission of diseases from livestock to wild animals. The subspecies occurs in a number of protected areas and is protected nationally and internationally. In a 2008 assessment, *R. pyrenaica ornata* was classified as Vulnerable by IUCN. Other populations of the species *Rupicapra pyrenaica* occur in Andorra, France and Spain. One other member of the genus *Rupicapra* is currently recognised, *Rupicapra rupicapra*, which also occurs in Italy. Chamois in general are popular targets for trophy hunters, but are not known to be in significant demand in international trade.

*Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata* was included in CITES Appendix I in 1975. It is the only taxon in the genus *Rupicapra* to be listed in the CITES Appendices. There has been virtually no reported international trade in recent years (2001-2010).

At its 25<sup>th</sup> meeting (Geneva, 2011), the Animals Committee selected *R. pyrenaica ornata* for review in the Periodic Review of Appendices. The review was conducted by Italy, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

**Analysis:** *Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata* still has a small global population. The global population is stable or increasing and the taxon is not known to be highly vulnerable to either intrinsic or extrinsic factors. Similarly, its area of distribution is relatively restricted but is not declining or highly fragmented, and is within protected areas. The taxon itself is legally protected and is not known to be in demand for international trade. It would appear that the taxon does not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

The current listing of *R. pyrenaica ornata* is inconsistent with recommendations for split-listing set out in Annex 3 of *Resolution Conf. 9.24. (Rev. CoP15)*, which advise that split-listings that place some populations of a species in the Appendices, and the rest outside the Appendices, should normally not be permitted (although it should be noted that Article I of the Convention defines “species” as “any species, subspecies, or geographically separate population thereof”).

Following the precautionary measures set out in Annex 4, the taxon is proposed for transfer to Appendix II, rather than immediate deletion from the Appendices.

| Supporting Statement (SS)   | Additional information |
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| <u>Taxonomy</u>   |                        |
| <p>While <i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i> and <i>R. pyrenaica</i> are commonly recognised as two species, some suggest that they are polyphyletic and that there is only one chamois species. <i>R. pyrenaica</i> was considered to include three subspecies, <i>parva</i>, <i>pyrenaica</i> and <i>ornata</i>, which are geographically isolated and occur in south-western Europe, including the Pyrenees, the Cantabrian Mountains, and the central Apennines. The</p> |                        |

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| <p>chamois of the Apennines of Central Italy was however considered as a distinct species, <i>Rupicapra ornata</i>, by some authors, as were <i>parva</i> and <i>pyrenaica</i>. Some have recommended a revision of the status of <i>ornata</i> and its re-elevation to species rank.</p>   |  |
| <b>Range</b>  |  |
| Italy   | <br><b>IUCN Global Category</b>  |
| Vulnerable (assessed in 2008, criteria version 3.1)   |  |
| <b>Biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I</b>  |  |
| <b><u>A) Small wild population</u></b>  |  |
| <b>(i) Population or habitat decline; (ii) small sub-populations; (iii) concentrated geographically during one or more life-history phases; (iv) large population fluctuations; (v) high vulnerability</b>  |  |
| <p>The habitat trend was considered to be stable.</p> <p><i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> was considered to be very rare and the population was estimated at fewer than 1500 animals, with the largest population occurring in the Abruzzo National Park (estimated at 530 animals in 2011). Its population was thought to have been very small for some centuries with numbers plummeting during World War I and II to fewer than 50 animals in one single population and later increasing again, as a result of increased conservation efforts, re-introductions and the establishment of two new populations.</p> <p>Overall, the population was reported to be increasing, as a result of strict protection and reintroductions. In the early 1970s, the population was estimated at 250-300 animals, in the late 1980s at 400 animals, with a growing population leading to estimates of 1100 in 2006 and almost 1500 animals a few years later.</p> <p>An annual increase of seven per cent was observed for the population in the Abruzzo National Park.</p> | <p><i>The website of a project funded by the European Commission (LIFE+ Nature), "LIFE Coornata: development of coordinated protection measures for Apennine Chamois LIFE09 NAT/IT/000183" reported that in the 1970s, the population of the Apennine Chamois in the Abruzzo, Latium and Molise National Park was estimated to be 250-300, remaining more or less constant to the early 1990s. From 1994, there was a new growth phase that, in 2005, resulted in a count of 650-700 animals. However, over 2006-2009, the data showed a steady diminishing in the numbers of animals observed – 645 counted in 2005, 518 in 2009 (Anon 2012a). From 2006 to present, the estimated population is about 500 chamois (Latini et al., 2012).</i></p> |
| <b><u>B) Restricted area of distribution</u></b>  |  |
| <b>(i) Fragmented or localised population; (ii) large fluctuations in distribution or sub-populations; (iii) high vulnerability; (iv) decrease in distribution, population, area or quality of habitat, or recruitment</b>  |  |
| <p><i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> is endemic to Italy, with three sub-populations in the Apennines, where it occurs in the National Parks of Gran Sasso-Monti della Laga, Majella and Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise. Animals have also been introduced to the Sibillini</p>   | <p><i>In the Abruzzo National Park, the area of occupancy increased constantly from 101 km<sup>2</sup> (1931-1976) to 168 km<sup>2</sup> (2000-2010). Likewise, the extent of occurrence increased regularly from the "historical" range (316 km<sup>2</sup>; 1931-1976) to the present</i></p>  |

| Supporting Statement (SS)  | Additional information  |
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| Mountains National Park. The Sirente-Velino National Park has been assessed as a potential site for introduction of the species and in the mid-2000s releases were reported to be planned “for the near future”. | <p><i>range (513 km<sup>2</sup>; 2000-2010) (Latini et al., 2012).</i></p> <p><i>The LIFE+ Nature project (Sept 2010 – Sept 2014) aims to establish five geographically isolated colonies of Apennine Chamois in five parks, including in the Sirente Velino Regional Park (Anon, 2012a).</i></p> |

**C) Decline in number of wild individuals**

**(i) Ongoing or historic decline; (ii) inferred or projected decline due to decreasing area or quality of habitat, levels of exploitation, high vulnerability, or decreasing recruitment**

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| <p>The population was reported to be increasing, as a result of strict protection and reintroductions. In the early 1970s, the population was estimated at 250-300 animals, in the late 1980s at 400 animals, with a growing population leading to estimates of 1100 in 2006 and almost 1500 animals a few years later. An annual increase of seven per cent was observed for the population in the Abruzzo National Park.</p> <p><i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> was categorised as Vulnerable by the IUCN in 2008, due to its small population size and restricted distribution. Previous assessments in the 1990s had categorised the species as Endangered, but strict protection and reintroductions led to a population increase and consequent re-categorisation.</p> | <p><i>In the period 2006-2012 the source population of the Abruzzo, Latium and Molise National Park showed a decrease of population size and a strong decrease of kid survival (Latini et al., 2012).</i></p> |
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**Trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix I**

**The species is or may be affected by trade**

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| <p>The meat of <i>Rupicapra</i> spp. was reported to be prized by some, its skin used as “shammy” leather for polishing and the hair from the back of the winter hide used for the brush on Tyrolean hats. However, this refers to legal trade in <i>R. rupicapra</i> and no such tradition is reported to be present in Central Italy.</p> <p>Reported global trade in <i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> over the period 1975-2010 consisted of 143 skins and 800 kg skins, 29 trophies, 10 live animals and four bodies, according to importers, with some hair, horn products and garments also traded. However, the majority of this trade was reported in the 1980s and may have actually involved other species/sub-species. Trade in the 1980s was reported primarily by the US as “<i>Rupicapra ornate</i>”; some of this trade had unknown origin or an unknown exporter and it is likely that imports originating in Austria, France and the former Yugoslavia may have been <i>R. rupicapra</i>, whereas imports from Spain may have been <i>R. pyrenaica pyrenaica</i> or <i>R. pyrenaica parva</i>. Furthermore, imports reported by the US from New Zealand may have been <i>R. rupicapra</i>, as New Zealand has an introduced population of this species. There has been virtually no reported trade in recent years (2001-2010), according to both importers and exporters. Italy has never reported any exports of <i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> and the CITES Scientific Authority of</p> |  |
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| <p>Italy confirmed that they have no record of the single trophy reported as an import by South Africa in 2010. Trophies and skins were the main parts and derivatives reported in trade for this taxon, although there has been virtually no trade in recent years.</p> <p>Illegal trade in the species is not known. There is little evidence of trade or offers for sale of <i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> over the internet and internet trade is not considered a concern.</p>  | <p><i>CITES trade data have one record reported by Italy, with source code 'I' involving one hunting trophy destined to the US.</i></p> <p><i>A search on French, German, Italian and UK eBay in November 2012 came up with no results for specimens of this species (also when searched using various common names).</i></p> |
| <p><b>Precautionary Measures</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>Species not in demand for trade; transfer to Appendix II unlikely to stimulate trade in, or cause enforcement problems for, any other species included in Appendix I</b></p>   |   |
| <p>The subspecies does not appear to be in demand in international trade.</p> <p><b>Species likely to be in demand for trade, but its management is such that the CoP will be satisfied with:</b></p> <p><b>i) implementation by the range States of the requirements of the Convention, in particular Article IV; and</b></p> <p><b>ii) appropriate enforcement controls and compliance with the requirements of the Convention</b></p> <p>The identification of hunting trophies of the species would not lead to enforcement problem as the subspecies is easily recognisable and it is not actually legally hunted.</p> <p>As per the precautionary measures outlined in <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15)</i> Annex 4, its management is such that the Conference of the Parties would be satisfied with: i) implementation by the range States of the requirements of the Convention, in particular Article IV; and ii) appropriate enforcement controls and compliance with the requirements of the Convention (criterion A2b). As the subspecies occurs in a number of protected areas and is protected nationally and internationally, it meets the precautionary measures.</p> |   |
| <p><b>Other information</b></p>  |   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Threats</u></b></p> <p>The small population size and low genetic variability of the subspecies <i>ornata</i> render it vulnerable to many factors and was considered the main threat to the species. Competition with domestic caprins was noted as a main limiting factor for <i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i>, with competition with wild ungulates, potential transmission of disease, slow dispersal and colonisation of new areas, free-ranging dogs, poaching and disturbance by tourism also considered to be threats. The subspecies <i>ornata</i></p> <p><i>Two cases of poaching were reported in the past 25 years in the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park (Sulli and Latini in litt., 2012).</i></p> <p><i>In the framework of the on-going LIFE+ project, threats that are affecting the population of the Abruzzo National Park are planned to be analysed in four sample areas by intensive surveillance, monitoring of 20 marked Apennine chamois, sanitary</i></p>  |   |

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| <p>was however reported not to be affected by disease. Poaching was not considered to impair the viability of the population in Abruzzo National Park. The CITES Scientific Authority of Italy confirmed that if any poaching does occur, it is at low level and not linked with trade activities.</p> | <p><i>analyses and monitoring interactions with red deer (Anon., 2012b).</i></p> <p><i>Information gathered for the LIFE+ project suggests that disease is considered as a threat to the sub-species, which however, is to be addressed in the framework of the project. The project website explains that domestic animals can be carriers of transmittable diseases, dangerous for the chamois and, thus, with serious repercussions during the colonisation of new areas. Differently to livestock, these diseases, once transmitted, become very difficult to control in wild chamois populations. In the National Action Plan for Apennine Chamois, this threat is considered to be at a high impact level (Anon., 2012a). Therefore, the LIFE+ project plans the treatment of all livestock breeding in the Apennine Chamois home ranges and of domestic animals in expanding areas of the other relevant national parks with proper vaccine and anti-parasitic drugs at least once a year (Anon., 2012b).</i></p> <p><i>Competition with livestock for pasture has been reported as an emerging threat in the Abruzzo National Park (Rocco in litt., 2012).</i></p> |

**Conservation, management and legislation**

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| <p>Italian hunting law (157/1992) protects <i>R. pyrenaica</i> as an especially protected species (Italy, 1992). The subspecies is included in Annex B (requiring the designation of conservation zones), D (requiring strict protection) and E (requiring the establishment of management measures) of law No. 357/97 (Ministero dell'Ambiente, 1997). Law No 357/97 prohibits the killing, take and disturbing of specimens or their habitats of species included in Annex D, as well as their possession or commercial use (unless legally acquired prior to the law being in force), with derogations for take or keeping only granted in the absence of satisfactory alternatives and on a selective basis only.</p> <p><i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> has been listed in CITES Appendix I since 1975. It was included in Annex A of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 and most recently, in Commission Regulation (EU) No 101/2012. It is also included in Annex II (species of community interest requiring the designation of special areas of conservation) and Annex IV (species of community interest requiring strict protection) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and as strictly protected species in Appendix II of the Bern Convention. Any down-listing would not change the protection status of the subspecies at national and EU level.</p> <p>Specimens from the wild and from a captive breeding programme have been introduced and reintroduced into suitable habitat in the 1990s. All re-introductions and introductions, recent and planned, are into protected areas.</p> |  |
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| <p><b><i>Majella National Park (introduction)</i></b><br/>Between 1991 and 1997 a total of 27 animals were released in the Majella massif (13 wild specimens and 14 originating in park enclosures) and the population has since been observed to grow. In 2005, five more animals were released and the population was counted at 300 animals, while in 2008, the population was estimated at 450-500 animals.</p> <p><b><i>Gran Sasso-Monti della Laga National Park (re-introduction)</i></b><br/><i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> became extinct in 1892, making this site the only real re-introduction site. Following identification of a suitable area and assessment of limiting factors, about 30 chamois (14 wild and 16 animals from park enclosures) were released. A consequent steady growth rate led to 340 animals in ten herds occupying most of the suitable area in 2008, with the population being estimated at 460 animals in 2011. Overall the programme was considered to be highly successful.</p> <p><b><i>Sibillini Mountains National Park (introduction)</i></b><br/>Eight animals (wild, originating in Abruzzo, Latium and Molise National Park) were released in SMNP in September 2008, followed by further releases, with the last one planned for 2014, with an overall goal of establishing a minimum viable population of 30 animals. In 2011, the population numbered 25 animals and included offspring of released animals.</p> <p><b><i>Sirente-Velino National Park (introduction)</i></b><br/>The Park was assessed as a potential site for introduction of the species and in the mid-2000s, releases were reported to be planned “for the near future”.</p> <p><b><i>Pollino National Park (introduction)</i></b><br/>The Park was thought to potentially be able to maintain a small herd, however, as regular releases of animals was expected to be required, the value of the operation was questioned.</p> <p>A national action plan was established for <i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> in the early 2000s, which recommended the further (re-)introduction of specimens into suitable habitats and to support the recently created populations with further releases. Some recommended conservation actions to include further introductions, with captive breeding encouraged to consider the alarming lack of genetic variability in the Abruzzo National Park population and associated development of a studbook.</p> <p>The species’s distribution is concentrated in four protected areas, the Gran Sasso-Monti della Laga, Majella, Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise as well as in Sibillini Mountains National Park. Integrated grazing management plans are part of the habitat management and livestock grazing is being restricted in an increasing number of alpine meadows within the subspecies range in order to reduce competition. The</p> |                        |

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| <p>impact of tourism is being managed in the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park, and after assessing the impact of various sources of disturbance, access to the release area in the Sibillini Mountains National Park was temporarily prohibited.</p> <p>Many population monitoring surveys were confirmed to be focussing on this species.</p>  |  |
| <b><u>Similar species</u></b>  |  |
| <p><i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> is similar to other chamois species, although it differs in colouration; it has a larger white throat patch and extensive white areas on the side and back of its neck that extend to the shoulder.</p> <p><i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> is the only member of the genus <i>Rupicapra</i> to be listed in the CITES Appendices. Other subspecies of <i>R. pyrenaica</i> are being hunted; however, they were assessed as Least Concern by the IUCN in 2008, with their numbers and range increasing. In Spain, <i>Rupicapra</i> spp. are major game species and are an important source of rural livelihoods, with hunting well managed through a quota system and considered sustainable. In France, hunting is of a more recreational nature, with annual quotas set at below 10% of the population and is considered sustainable overall, with few local exceptions noted.</p> | <p><i>Populations of the Northern Chamois Rupicapra rupicapra also occur in Italy (Herrero et al., 2008).</i></p> <p><i>Range States of Rupicapra pyrenaica are Andorra, France, Italy and Spain (Herrero et al., 2008).</i></p> |
| <b><u>Artificial Propagation/Captive breeding</u></b>  |  |
| <p>A breeding population of the subspecies is kept in wildlife areas across four national parks, numbering 18 animals in 2006. However, a studbook has not been kept, which was considered a major shortcoming of the breeding programme.</p>  |  |
| <b><u>Other comments</u></b>   |  |
| <p>The current listing of <i>R. pyrenaica ornata</i> is inconsistent with measures for split-listing, which advise that this should be on the basis of national or regional populations rather than subspecies; split-listings that place some populations of a species in the Appendices, and the rest outside the Appendices, should normally not be permitted (Annex 3 of <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24. [Rev.CoP15]</i>).</p>   |  |

**Reviewers:** R. Latini, C. Sulli, M.Rocco, K. Kecse-nagy.

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