



Lt Col J C Sawhney (Retd)
Executive Secretary

C/o Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd.
Lalbaug, Parel
Bombay 400 012
Tel: 441361
Grams: PANDAFUND BOMBAY

26 May 1982

There are two races of the Red Deer in this subcontinent - the Kashmir Stag or Hangul and the Shou. The former is only found in Kashmir and the latter was found mainly in the Chumbi Valley and eastwards in the adjacent valleys of the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan notably in the upper reaches of the Ha Valley.

The Shou has been considered as - "Endangered. Probably extinct" - by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) on the basis of earlier reports received by them. However, a recent report questions its probably extinct status and indicates that in September/October 1981, a large buck was seen being chased by dogs and was finally found dead in the Indian Army camp. It apparently died of exhaustion since it was bleeding from the mouth when it was examined. The corpse was still warm and showed very good condition and is reported to be very fat. It was felt to be past its prime and estimated to be higher than a large cow, at the withers. The locals are reported to have said that they see herds of these animals quite often.

I cannot think of any other Indian Army camp except your Establishment at HA DZONG, unless there have been changes in the past few years. Hence I have taken this liberty of approaching you with the following requests :-

- (a) Confirmation of the incident mentioned above
- (b) Sighting reports of the SHOU, including the following information :-
 - (i) Date of sighting
 - (ii) Place and approximate altitude (grid reference and name of any nearby village, river or any other prominent reference point)
 - (iii) Numbers seen - stags, hinds and calf - if identified
 - (iv) Copy of a photograph if possible
 - (v) Name and address of observer and any other eye witnesses with him

10 copies of one of our greeting cards illustrating the Kashmir Stag or Hangul are enclosed. The SHOU is much larger than the

..2

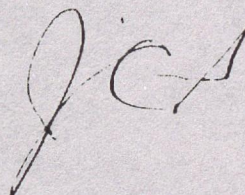
- 2 -

WWF-India
Bombay 400 012

26 May 1982

Kashmir Stag, standing from 54 inches to 60 inches (140 to 150 cms) or more at the shoulder. Its antlers are longer and more massive than the Hangul. The horns of an adult Hangul average 40 inches (100 cms) in length and the maximum record is 50 1/2 inches (128.3 cms) being the length on the outside curve. I hope this brief description will enable even a lay observer to identify the Shou. It seems too much to hope that there may be someone posted there at HA DZONG who shares our concern at the vanishing species of wildlife, which would make this task easier. I would be grateful for your help in this matter, to enable me reply to the query raised by the IUCN.

Commandant
IMTRAT
C/o 99 APO



C/o Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd.
Lalbaug, Parel
Bombay 400 012
Tel: 441361
Grams: PANDAFUND BOMBAY

14 September 1982

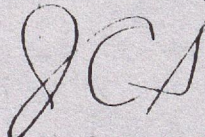
Ms Jane Thornback
Compiler
Mammal Red Data Book
International Union for Conservation
of Nature and Natural Resources
219(s) Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
United Kingdom

Dear Ms Thornback,

I have received a reply from the Army regarding the incident of the shou. They confirm the incident. However, the incident took place not in the Army Camp, but in one of the two camps of other non-army establishments which are located across the river. Some locals are reported to have chased a "deer" (presumably the shou). Some dogs were also chasing the deer which was apparently fatigued and fell from a height of about 15 ft. within the camp and died. The deer was reported to be in good condition and was bleeding from the mouth with no other signs of any major injury. The deer was subsequently handed over to the Royal Bhutan Police authorities who sent it on to the State Capital at Thimpu.

They also reported that patrols of the Royal Bhutan Army sometimes come across herds of deer at altitudes of 12000ft and above in Western Bhutan. They are untrained people who would only be able to classify them as deer. But if a photograph or a painting of a shou could be supplied, they will find it more easy to send us citing *sightings* reports of it. Can anyone help?

Yours sincerely,



Lt Col J C Sawhney (Retd)
Executive Secretary

- cc: 1) Mr Bob Scott, IUCN.
2) Mr Peter Jackson, Haut Verger, 1171 Bugy-Villars, Vaud, Switzerland
3) ~~Dr Y. Clutton-Brock, Zoological Field Station, Storeys Way, Cambridge.~~
4) Mr Colin Helleway, 4 Tres-ye-Afon, Beaumaris, Gwynedd LL58 8UU, Wales.

Trustees:
Lt. Col. Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad of Baroda, President
Mr. Zafar Futehally, Vice President
Mr. S.P. Godrej

Mr. Duleep Malhotra
Mr. Jagat Mehta
Mr. Vasant G. Rajadhyaksha
Mrs. Anne Wright





MEMO

To: Gren Lucas,
Chairman SSC

From: Jane Thornback

Cc: Tim Clutton-Brock
Wayne King
WWF - India
Bob Scott
Richard Fitter

Date: 13 May 1982

Subject: The Shou Cervus elaphus wallichi

The Shou, a subspecies of Red Deer, had been thought to be extinct. However, Mr. C.G. Hickman of FAO, in a recent communication, relates that he believes the animal still exists in Bhutan. Colin Holloway, to whom I sent copies of the communique, suggests that M. K. Ranjitsinh should visit Bhutan and attempt to verify that the sighting was of the Shou.

I am passing this information on to you in the hope that the appropriate wheels can be set rolling.

encl: RDB sheet
Mr. C.G. Hickman's letter.

Shou



United Nations
Development Programme



Royal Government of Bhutan



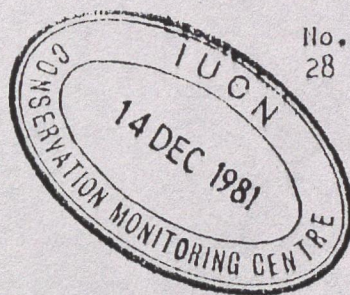
Food And Agriculture
Organization

VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

SERBITHANG
P.O. BOX-155
THIMPHU (BHUTAN)

No. BHU/76/57/ 3633
28 November 1981.

Mr. Jane Thornback
Compiler
Mammal Red Data Book
Conservation Monitoring Centre
IUCN 219 (C) Huntingdon Road,
Cambridge,
UK CB3 0DL



Dear Ms. Thornback:

I had a quick look at the RDB reports you kindly sent which are of considerable interest to my Bhutanese Colleagues. One report I hasten to question which claims the ~~Shou~~ is extinct, It certainly is not. I saw a beautiful large buck in Ha Valley a few weeks ago that was being chased by dogs and finally found dead in the Indian Army camp. Apparently it died of exhaustion since it was bleeding from the mouth when the Dzong called me to go with him to examine it. The corps was still warm and showing very good condition; infact I would conclude it was very fat. Obviously ~~past~~ it was past its prime age with very large horns and I would guess higher at the withers than a large cow or about 120 cm.

The local people including my driver reports they see herds of these animals quite often. They are hunted by His Majesty who I am sure would confirm the presence of a viable population. Although hunting is not permitted it is known that isolated families use snares to catch these animals for consumption.

Incidentally, I am now doing consultancies in the field of Livestock Resource Management and if you need some help with inventoring breeds or starting a resource operation I would be glad to offer my assistance.

- cc G. Lucas
- I. Clifton - Brock
- C. Holloway
- P. Jackson
- B. Scott
- P. Scott

Please reply to

Best regards

C. G. Hickman
C.G. Hickman
Livestock Resource Management Consul

Casella Postale Rperta 64, Rome,
Italy 00153 FAO

Cervus elaphus wallichii (Cuvier, 1823)

Order ARTIODACTYLA

Family CERVIDAE

STATUS AND SOLICITY Endangered. Probably extinct. This subspecies of Red Deer formerly inhabited southern Tibet and the adjacent valleys of Bhutan. There is no recent information about its presence in Tibet. Surveys by the Bhutan Forest Department have failed to locate it in Bhutan and the Department now believes it to be extinct there and also very probably in Tibet, though a proper search and enquiries still need to be made in that country. The probable demise of the subspecies is attributed to uncontrolled hunting.

DISTRIBUTION China (Tibet) and Bhutan. Main stronghold was the Chumbi Valley in Tibet; also occurred eastwards in the adjacent valleys of Bhutan, notably the upper reaches of the Ila Valley, as well as in the Tsari district of south-eastern Tibet 420 km east of the Chumbi Valley (2; 3; 5). Has never been recorded from Nepal or Sikkim (the name 'Sikkim Stag' sometimes given to the Shou is due to the fact that the Chumbi Valley was at one time part of Sikkim) (2; 3; 5). Recent extensive surveys in its last known areas of distribution in Bhutan have failed to locate it (1). There is no recent information on its occurrence in Tibet, where the deer was last recorded in 1946/47, when it was described as existing in 'fair numbers' in the Tsari district in the south-east (2; 3).

POPULATION Probably extinct. The Bhutan Forest Department is emphatic that none survive in Bhutan, and believes it to be almost certainly extinct in Tibet also (4).

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY Temperate forests of the Himalayan Range (2).

THREATS TO SURVIVAL The demise of the Shou was due to uncontrolled hunting by sportsmen and local villagers and more recently by Chinese military personnel (2).

CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN The Bhutan Forest Department has conducted surveys to determine whether the Shou was still extant (1).

CONSERVATION MEASURES PROPOSED Proper search and enquiries to determine whether the Shou still exists in Tibet.

REMARKS For description of animal see (3; 5; 6). Twenty-five subspecies of Cervus elaphus are recognized (including what was formerly considered a separate species Cervus canadensis but is now considered only subspecifically distinct from C. elaphus). They inhabit North America, Europe and Asia. Of these C. e. canadensis (eastern America) and C. e. merriami (Arizona and north Mexico) are extinct; C. e. wallichii (Tibet/Bhutan) may be extinct. At least 4 other subspecies are in the endangered category, namely C. e. hanglu (Kashmir), C. e. corsicanus (Corsica and Sardinia), C. e. barbarus (North Africa), C. e. bactrianus (northern Afghanistan and Russian Turkestan) and C. e. yarkandensis (Chinese Turkestan). C. e. macneilli (Tibetan/Chinese border) is in the indeterminate category, and C. e. nannodes in the 'out of danger' category.

- REFERENCES
1. Anon. 1976. Is the Shou Extinct? Oryx 13(4): 340.
 2. Gee, E.P. 1967. Pers. comm. In Red Data Book Vol. 1, 1968. IUCN, Morges.
 3. Gee, E.P. 1964. The Wild Life of India. Collins, London.