

**FLARE HORNED OR KASHMIR MARKHOR,**  
***Capra falconeri*, Wagner 1839**

Vernacular Names: *markhor* (Punjab and Kashmir),  
*raphoche* (male) *rawache* (female)



C.E.E.

**Taxonomy**

**Family:** Bovidae  
**Sub family:** Caprinae  
**Tribe:** Caprini

**Conservation Status**

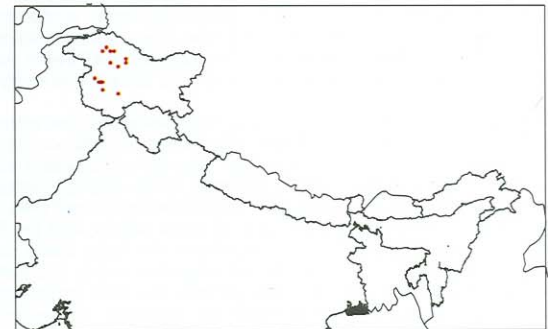
**IUCN:** Endangered  
**CAMP:** Critical  
**IWPA:** Schedule I  
**CITES:** Appendix I  
**US ESA:** Endangered

**Distribution & Habitat :** Sparsely wooded mountainous regions in the western Himalayan Pir Panjal range at an elevation of 600-3,600 m. In India, they occur only in a few pockets of the Kashmir valley, notably the Kisthwar National Park, in the Greater Himalaya, with possibilities of their occurrence in the Pangi valley of Himachal Pradesh too. Bulk of the distribution is however in the Trans-Himalayan areas, now in the PoK. Other subspecies of markhor occur in the Salt, Safed Koh, Hindu Kush and Kirthar ranges in Pakistan, in eastern Afghanistan and southern Tajikistan.

**Size**

**Body Length:** 132-186cm  
**Shoulder Height:** 102cm (65-115cm)  
**Weight:** 104 kg; Male 100-110kg ; Female 32-50kg  
**Horn length:** Male: 143cm, Female 25-30cm

**Description :** The grizzled light brown to black coat is smooth and short in summer, growing longer and thicker in winter. Males have long hair on the chin, throat, chest, and shanks, while females have smaller fringes. The lower legs have a black and white pattern. Males have loosely curled, corkscrew-like horns, starting close together at the head, but spreading towards the tips. In males, they can grow up to 160 cm, and up to 25 cm in females. Female horns are also slightly twisted. A dark lateral stripe is present in males and is usually fainter in females.



**Behaviour :** Occurs in low to mid elevation, open and slightly wooded arid tracts in the Trans-Himalaya and parts of the Greater Himalaya. May migrate up to 4,000m in summer, but essentially remain in areas where rugged valleys and mountains are available at ca. 2,200m. Distinctly avoid areas with high snow cover. Lack underwool and thus avoid excessively cold areas, but can tolerate high temperatures reaching up to 45°C. The markhor's alarm call resembles the nasal "a" not very different from the common domestic goat. The primary natural predators are leopard, Tibetan wolf, snow leopard, and lynx. Markhor, a wild goat species, are efficient negotiators of steep cliffs and use this to escape predators

**Reproduction & Life Cycle**

**Gestation Period:** 135-170 days.  
**Rutting:** Mid-Dec to early Jan (varies between years and regions)  
**Young per Birth:** 1 or 2, rarely 3.  
**Weaning:** At 5-6 months  
**Sexual Maturity:** At 1.5-2.5 years, although males do not reach their full potential before age 5-7  
**Life span:** 12-13 years. Males rarely survive beyond their 7-8<sup>th</sup> year

The markhor is mainly active in the early morning and late afternoon. An intermediate forager, it consumes primarily grasses and forbs during spring and summer months, while in the winter it turns primarily to browse for nourishment. Markhor often stand on their hind legs in order to reach high vegetation; they are known to climb the gnarled trees for foraging. During the rut, males fight for breeding rights. These competitions involve lunging and locking the horns, followed by the combatants twisting and pushing in an attempt to make the other lose his balance.

Females and young live in herds of around 9 animals; adult males are usually solitary.

