

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

Inclusion of *Gazella leptoceros* (slender-horned gazelle) in Appendix I.

B. Proponent

Algeria

C. Supporting statement

Species at risk of extinction and endemic to North Africa (extinct in Morocco).

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Mammalia

1.2 Order: Artiodactyla

1.3 Family: Bovidae

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Gazella leptoceros loderi*  
(Thomas, 1894)

1.5 Scientific synonyms: *Antilope leptoceros*, *Leptoceros cuvieri*, *Gazella loderi*,  
*Gazella subgutturosa loderi*, *Gazella dorcas*, var. 4

1.6 Common names: English: slender-horned gazelle, Loder's gazelle, sand gazelle,  
Algerian sand gazelle, rhim  
French: leptocère, gazelle des sables, gazelle des dunes, gazelle  
blanche, rhim, gazelle à longues cornes  
Spanish: gazela de la arena

1.7 Code numbers:

2. Overview

*Gazella leptoceros loderi* is a typically Saharan antelope, associated with sand deserts and typical of the central Sahara (Dragesco-Joffe, 1993). It seems to be absent from the most westerly major zones of Saharan ergs (Walter and Breckle, 1986) and its distribution is centred in the Great Western Erg, the Great Eastern Erg, the sandy zone which extends from the Hamada de Tinrherth in Algeria to the Fezzan region in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the smaller ergs surrounding the central Saharan mountains of the Hoggar and Tassili N'Ajjer ranges. Its distribution in the ergs surrounding those

mountains might extend as far as Mali, in the Tanezrouft region (de Smet, 1989) and in the vicinity of Adrar Tirharhar (Pavy, 1996).

### 3. Species characteristics

#### 3.1 Distribution

The range of *Gazella leptoceros loderi* is centred on Algeria, being located primarily to the east of a line starting in Saoura, in the Great Western Erg, the Great Eastern Erg, the Hamada de Tinrhert, and the smaller ergs surrounding the Central Saharan mountains of the Hoggar and Tassili N'Ajjer ranges (Sclater & Thomas, 1898; Trouessart, 1905; Lavauden, 1926; Joleaud, 1929; Dupuy, 1967; de Smet, 1989; Kowalski & Rzebik-Kowalska, 1991; Dragesco-Joffe, 1993).

*Gazella leptoceros loderi* is also present in Tunisia, in the Great Eastern Erg. Its numbers there are unknown, but are probably low (Lavauden, 1920; Dragesco-Joffe, 1993; Kacem *et al.*, 1994).

In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the species is present in the sandy zones of the Fezzan region (Setzer, 1957; Hufnagl, 1972; Khattabi & Mallon, 1997), and it probably also exists in Mali, in the Tanezrouft region (de Smet, 1989).

#### 3.2 Habitat

It appears that the sole habitat of *Gazella leptoceros loderi* comprises the ergs of the Sahara (Schnell, 1977; White, 1983, units 69, 70, 71; Ozenda, 1991). It is thought to feed mainly on *Aristida pungens* (Heim de Balsac, 1936) but also uses plants with a high hydrous content such as *Anabasis articulata*, *Arthrophytum schmittianum*, *Helianthemum kahiricum*, and the fruit of *Colocynthis vulgaris*, to satisfy its needs for water (Kacem *et al.*, 1994).

#### 3.3 Biological characteristics

The slender-horned gazelle moves around in small herds of three or four, generally speaking one adult male, some females and young. It may also be observed alone or in a couple. Gestation takes approximately 165 days. Twins are common (Le Berre, 1990).

#### 3.4 Morphological characteristics

A gazelle of medium size with a pale yellowish beige back separated from the white belly by a slightly darker band on the flanks. The face and neck are the same colour as the back. Facial marks are not clearly defined. The ears are long and narrow. The horns are long, erect, divergent and almost straight in both sexes (Groves, 1988), with 20 to 25 clearly-marked rings. They are markedly thicker and longer in males, reaching 35 or 40 cm. The outer hooves are wider than the inner ones (Kingdon, 1997), the widening of the surface facilitating walking on sand (Le Berre, 1990). The rump patch is white with little outline. The tail is short, terminated by a tuft of black hair. The slender-horned gazelle is not well known by comparison with the other gazelle species.

Body length:	90-100 cm
Tail length:	15-20 cm
Height:	65-72 cm
Weight:	20-30 kg
Horns:	25-40 cm

#### 3.5 Role of the species in its ecosystem

The species plays an important role in the region's biological equilibrium.

#### 4. Status and trends

##### 4.1 Habitat trends

Activity patterns of the slender-horned gazelle are largely nocturnal and crepuscular. Eating and moving around at dusk or during the night, it rests in the hot daytime hours in the shade or in hollowed-out depressions (Osborn and Helmy 1980).

Its best-known habitat comprises the Great Ergs and the Hamadas.

##### 4.2 Population size

It is very difficult to estimate *Gazella leptoceros loderi* numbers. It appears, however, that it used to be far more abundant in the major ergs of Algeria and Tunisia at the end of the 19th century. Significant numbers were encountered, it would appear, by several naturalists of that time (Sclater and Thomas, 1898; Lavauden, 1926; Heim de Balsac, 1928, 1936), whereas Houérou (1986) reports having seen just one during 25 years of exploration undertaken for purposes of establishing vegetation maps of North Africa.

According to the survey undertaken by the *Direction Générale des Forêts* [Directorate-General for Forests] in order to identify the ranges of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes in Algeria, which started in March 2005 and will continue until the end of 2008, slender-horned gazelle populations are present in 11 *wilayas* (departments) and 15 communes (in the eastern Tellian Atlas, the southern slope of the *wilaya* of Tébessa, three *wilayas* in the semi-arid region and seven *wilayas* in the arid region).

##### 4.3 Population structure

According to the survey referred to above, slender-horned gazelle populations are present in 11 *wilayas* and 15 communes.

##### 4.4 Population trends

Population threatened with extinction (it should be noted that the slender-horned gazelle is already extinct in Morocco).

##### 4.5 Geographic trends

The *Gazella leptoceros loderi* population living in the ergs surrounding the mountains of the Hoggar and Tassili ranges may still extend as far as Mali in the Tanezrouft region (de Smet, 1989). The population reported in the vicinity of Adrar Tirharhar (Pavy, 1996) is probably extinct (Lamarque, personal communication).

#### 5. Threats

Principally hunting from motor vehicles and degradation of the vegetation of the ergs.

#### 6. Utilization and trade

##### 6.1 National utilization

None.

##### 6.2 Legal trade

None.

##### 6.3 Parts and derivatives in trade

None.

#### 6.4 Illegal trade

None.

#### 6.5 Actual or potential trade impacts

None.

### 7. Legal instruments

#### 7.1 National

Law No. 04-07 of 14 August 2004 dealing with hunting (Articles 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58).

Order No. 06-05 of 15 July 2006 dealing with the protection and preservation of certain animal species at risk of extinction, under which the slender-horned gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros loderi*) is treated in Algeria as a highly protected species.

#### 7.2 International

Bonn Convention: Appendix I, Resolution 3, 2, 4.

Washington Convention (CITES): Appendix III (Tunisia).

### 8. Species management

#### 8.1 Management measures

The slender-horned gazelle populations are managed at the national level by the authority responsible for hunting (the *Direction Générale des Forêts*) and at the regional level by the conservation authorities for forests and national parks.

#### 8.2 Population monitoring

A survey has been launched by the *Direction Générale des Forêts* in order to identify the ranges of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes. This started in March 2005 and will continue until the end of 2008.

#### 8.3 Control measures

##### 8.3.1 International

Application of CITES.

Application of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

##### 8.3.2 Domestic

By the forest wardens with responsibility for the territory.

#### 8.4 Captive breeding

Breeding station for the Dorcas and slender-horned gazelles in the *wilaya* of El Bayadh, administered by the *Agence Nationale de la Nature* (A.N.N) [National Agency for Nature].

There is a plan to establish a national centre for semi-captive breeding of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes at El Menea, in the *wilaya* of Ghardaïa.

## 8.5 Habitat conservation

The species is found in the following protected areas: the Hoggar and Tassili N'Ajjer national parks.

## 8.6 Safeguards

A joint UNDP/*Direction Générale des Forêts* project on the restoration and protection of the ecosystems of the arid zones in the region of Taghit (*wilaya* of Bechar).

## 9. Information on similar species

This species shares the same range as the Cuvier's gazelle, for example in the *wilaya* of Biskra.

This species shares the same range as the Dorcas gazelle, for example in the *wilayas* of El Bayadh, Béchar, Ghardaïa and Illizi.

This species shares the same range as the Barbary sheep, for example in the *wilayas* of Illizi and Tamanrasset.

## 10. Consultations

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## 11. Additional remarks

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## 12. References

CMS Technical Series Publication N° 10, Antilopes Sahélo-Sahariennes (Statuts et Perspectives),  
Edité par: Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique avec la collaboration de SCF – SSIG  
(Novembre 2005).

L'enquête Nationale sur l'identification des aires de répartition des antilopes sahélo-sahariennes en  
Algérie lancée par La Direction Générale des Forêts (2005/2008).