


Alpine Musk Deer सुनकण्ठे कस्तुरी मृग





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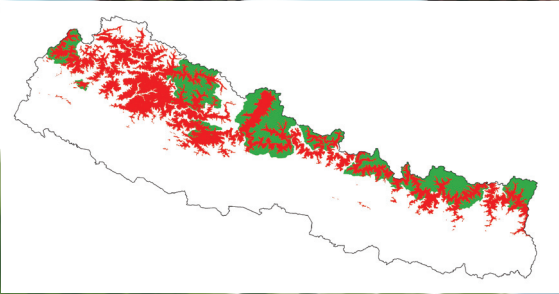
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Morphology and Structure

Musk Deer is a unique deer with fangs and without antlers. Other unique features of this deer are: it possesses gallbladder and a pair of teats in its females whereas gallbladder is missing and are with four mammae in other deer species. Among three species of Musk Deer (Alpine Musk Deer *Moschus chrysogaster*, Himalyan Musk Deer *Moschus leucogaster*, Dusky Musk Deer *Moschus fuscus*) found in Nepal the color of Alpine Musk Deer is dark brown in adults. It possesses large ears and a short tail. Its body length is 86-100 cm, shoulder height is 51-53 cm and tail length is 4-6 cm. Body weight of this deer varies from 10-18 kg. Hind legs are longer than the front and it jumps more often than it runs. Dense coat of coarse hairs and air filled cells insulates against the extreme temperature. Musk Deer is famous for the waxy substances called musk originating from the gland in the abdomen.

कस्तुरी मृग सिङ नहुने तर बाहिर २ ओटा तिखा दाढा निस्किएको हिमाली क्षेत्रमा पाइने सुन्दर जीव हो । यो प्रजातिको मृगमा पोथीको १ जोडी थुन हुन्छ, तर अरू प्रजातिका मृगको २ जोडी थुन हुन्छ । त्यसै गरी अरू प्रजातिका मृगमा पित्त थैली हुँदैन, तर यसमा भने हुन्छ । नेपालमा सेतोकण्ठे, सुनकण्ठे र कालो गरी ३ ओटा प्रजातिका कस्तुरी मृगहरू पाइन्छन् । जसमा सुनकण्ठे कस्तुरी मृगको लामो कान र छोटो पुच्छर हुन्छ । वयस्क अवस्थामा यो खैरो रङको हुन्छ । यसको शरीरको लम्बाई ८६-१०० से.मि., उचाई ५१-५३ से.मि. तथा पुच्छर ४-६ से.मि. सम्म मापन गरिएको छ । १८ कि.ग्रा. सम्म वजन हुने यस मृगको अगाडिको खुट्टा छोटो तथा पछाडिको खुट्टा लामो हुन्छ । यसै कारणले यो मृग हिँड्दा पनि उफ्रिद्वै हिँडे जस्तो देखिन्छ । चिसो स्थानमा बस्ने भएकोले सुरक्षाका लागि यसको मोटा-मोटा तथा हावा भरिएका रौंहरू हुन्छन् जसले बाहिरको चिसोलाई भित्र छिर्न दिँदैन । भाले कस्तुरीको नाभीमा वास्नादार पदार्थ रहेको हुन्छ जसलाई विना भनिन्छ ।





सुनकण्ठे कस्तुरी मृग एसियाको नेपाल, भारत, भुटान र चीनको रैथाने जीव हो। नेपालमा समुन्द्री सतहदेखि २५०० मि. भन्दा माथिको हिमाली क्षेत्रमा पाइन्छ। यो कुनै समय हिमाली क्षेत्रमा व्यापक रूपमा फैलिएको भएपनि वासस्थानको क्षतिले गर्दा यसको संख्या घट्दो क्रममा छ। हाल पातलो संख्यामा खप्तड, रारा, शे-फोक्सुण्डो, लाङटाङ, सगरमाथा तथा मकालु वरुण राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जमा पाइन्छ। त्यसैगरी अपिन्मपा, अन्नपूर्ण, मनास्लु, गौरीशंकर, कञ्चनजङ्घा संरक्षण क्षेत्र र ठोरपाटन शिकार आरक्षमा पनि पाइन्छ। संरक्षित क्षेत्रभन्दा बाहिर यो अछाम, बैतडी, बझाङ, दार्चुला, डोल्पा, हुम्ला, जुम्ला र रोल्पा जिल्लामा पाइन्छ। सगरमाथा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जमा यो प्रतिवर्ग कि.मि. ४५ ओटाको घनत्वमा ६००-८०० को सङ्ख्यामा रहेको अनुमान गरिएको छ। त्यसैगरी शे-फोक्सुण्डो राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जमा १००० भन्दा बढी र कञ्चनजङ्घा संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा ५०० को सङ्ख्यामा रहेको अनुमान गरिएको छ। यसको नेपालमा र विश्वमा रहेको जम्मा सङ्ख्या यकिन गरिएको छैन।

Distribution and Population

Alpine Musk Deer is native species of India, Nepal, Bhutan and China. It is an Asian species. In Nepal, it is distributed in high mountainous region above 2500m asl. The population is on decreasing trend and is sparsely distributed within the protected areas of Nepal: Khaptad, Rara, Shey-Phoksundo, Langtang, Sagarmatha, Makalu-Barun National Parks, Api-nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gauri Shankar, Kanchanjunga Conservation Area and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve. Its distribution is not limited to protected areas and is also recorded from Accham, Baitadi, Bajhang, Darchula, Dolpa, Humla, Jumla and Rolpa districts. The estimated population is 600-800 in Sagarmatha National Park at densities of upto 45/km²; more than 1000 in Shey-Phoksundo National Park and 500 in Kanchanjunga Conservation Area. The national and global population is unknown.



Habitat

Alpine Musk Deer inhabits mainly in temperate forest and alpine scrub of the eastern and southern Tibet and along the southern slopes of the Himalayas. Temperate climate prevailing alpine meadows, shrub lands, birch, blue pine and fir forests from 3,000-4,500m above sea level is the major habitat of this primitive deer.

सुनकण्ठे कस्तुरी मृग नेपालको उत्तरी क्षेत्रको कोणधारी जङ्गल तथा हिमाली क्षेत्रका भाडिदार जङ्गल र पूर्वी तथा दक्षिणी तिब्बती पठारमा पाइन्छन् । समुन्द्री सतहबाट करिब ३०००-४५०० मि.सम्मको कोणधारी जङ्गल, उच्च हिमाली खर्क, भाडिदार जङ्गल यस प्राचीन मृगको मुख्य वासस्थान हो ।



Feeding Behavior

Alpine Musk Deer is herbivorous and feeds on leaves, flowers, twigs of plants, lichens, mosses, shoots and grasses. More than 130 plant species are consumed by it. In the winter, arboreal lichens and some terrestrial bushy lichens make up about 70 percent by weight of the contents of its stomach. In the summer, herbaceous plants are the main diet.

सुनकण्ठे कस्तुरी मृग शाहाकारी जीव हो । यसले कलिला पात, कोपिला, टुसा, रुखका बोक्रा, फुल, हाँगा, भ्याउ, लेउ आदि खाने गर्छ । यसले १३० भन्दा बढी प्रजातिका वनस्पति खाने गर्छ । जाडो महिनामा यसले उपभोग गर्ने ७० प्रतिशत (तौलअनुसार) खानेकुरा रुखमा पलाएको भ्याउ हुने गर्छ भने गर्मी याममा यसको मुख्य आहारा हिमाली जडिबुटी हो ।



Reproduction and Life Cycle

Alpine Musk Deer gets sexually matured from 16-24 months. Breeding season of these species is from November to mid-January. Gestation period is 180-200 days. Generally, it gives one offspring at a time. After birth, fawn suckles the milk of mother for two months and is concealed in undergrowth. Life span of this species is 10-15 years in the captivity.

सुनकण्ठे कस्तुरी मृग १६-२४ महिनाभित्र प्रजननयोग्य हुन्छ । यसको समागम कार्तिकदेखि माघ महिनासम्म हुन्छ र उक्त समय पोथी भालेसँग नजिक रहन्छे । १८०-२०० दिनको गर्भाधानपछि पोथीले एक पटकमा एउटा बच्चा जन्माउँछे । पोथीले २ महिनासम्म बच्चालाई आफ्नो दुध चुसाउँछे र भाडीमा लुकाएर राख्छे । चिडियाखानामा सामान्यतया यसको आयु १०-१५ वर्षसम्म हुन्छ ।



Social Behavior

Alpine Musk Deer is known as the true deer or primitive deer of the world. Musk Deer is solitary and shy animal and maintains well defined territories. The pungent secretion from musk gland is typically used to mark territories and deter rival males during the breeding season in natural state. Additionally, they also use secretion from caudal gland and construct latrine to signify their territory.

सुनकण्ठे कस्तुरी मृगलाई प्राचीन समयको वास्तविक मृग भनेर चिनिन्छ । यो एकलै विचरण गर्न मन पराउँछ र अति लजालु प्रकृतिको हुन्छ । यसले प्राकृतिक वासस्थानमा आफ्नो सीमित क्षेत्र निर्धारण गरी प्रजननको बेला उक्त क्षेत्रमा अरू भालेलाई निषेध गर्छ । यसले बड्कौला त्याग गरेर र विनाबाट निस्किएको कडा गन्धले आफ्नो क्षेत्र निर्धारण गर्छ ।



Threats

From the ancient time, the primary threat to the Alpine Musk Deer is poaching for its muskpod: a highly desired product has been used in perfumes and traditional medicines. Alpine Musk Deer is normally caught using snares when it visits latrine site for defecation, and sometimes by gun. Some professional hunters were also found using dogs to hunt. During the process of poaching, male, female and juvenile could be snared indiscriminately, though only adult male produces musk. Therefore, snaring could push deer at the verge of extinction. In some regions, Alpine Musk Deer may also be hunted for its meat, while its habitat is fragmented by encroachment and deforestation. Though, the Alpine Musk Deer is protected by law of Nepal, it's poaching is not under control.

प्राचीन समयदेखि यसलाई बिनाको लागि शिकार गरिन्छ । कस्तुरी मृगको बिना विभिन्न रोगको औषधी तथा अत्तर बनाउनका लागि समेत अति महत्वपूर्ण वस्तु मानिन्छ । यसको शिकार गर्नका लागि जङ्गलमा थुप्रै पासोहरू थापिन्छ र बन्दुकको पनि प्रयोग गरिन्छ । केही व्यवसायिक शिकारीहरूले शिकारी कुकुरकोसमेत प्रयोग गरेको पाइएको छ । भाले कस्तुरी मृगले मात्रै बिना उत्पादन गर्छ तर प्रत्येक पटक शिकार गर्न पासो थाप्दा थुप्रै पोथी र बच्चाहरू पनि मर्ने गर्छन् । कुनै कुनै ठाउँमा मासुको लागि समेत यसको शिकार गरिन्छ, भने हिमाली क्षेत्रमा गरिने वस्तुपालनका कारण यसको वासस्थान साँघुरिँदै गएको छ । यो संरक्षित जीव भएपनि नेपालको हिमाली क्षेत्रमा यसको व्यापक शिकार हुनाले लोप हुने खतरामा छ ।

Conservation and Legal Status

Globally and nationally Alpine Musk Deer is categorized as Endangered in IUCN Red list. It is also listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that means the species is threaten with extinction and the commercial trade of its part is not allowed. Moreover, the species is listed as protected mammals nationally by National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 A.D. (2029 B.S.). Under this act, it has been prohibited the poaching of Alpine Musk Deer and has clearly mentioned that harming or killing of this species is a punishable crime with penalty of NPR 50,000-100,000 or the imprisonment of 5-15 years or both. Strict enforcement of law and local community participation are highly important for the conservation of Alpine Musk Deer.

सुनकण्ठे कस्तुरी मृगलाई विश्व तथा राष्ट्रिय स्तरमा आइ.यु.सि.एन. को रातो सूचीमा संकटापन्न वन्यजन्तुको अवस्थामा राखिएको छ साथै साईटिस महासन्धिले यसलाई अनुसूची १ मा राखेको छ । राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण ऐन, वि.सं. २०२९ अनुसार यो संरक्षित जीव हो । यस प्रजातिलाई मारेमा वा कुनै प्रकारले हानी पुऱ्याएमा ५०,०००-१,००,००० रूपैयाँ जरिवाना वा ५-१५ बर्षसम्म कैद वा दुवै सजाय हुनसक्ने प्रावधान छ । विद्यमान कानुनको पालना, सचेतना एवं वासस्थान संरक्षण तथा स्थानीय स्तरमा समुदायमा आधारित चोरी शिकारी नियन्त्रण इकाई परिचालन गरी यस वन्यजन्तुको उचित संरक्षण गर्न सकिन्छ ।



Key Facts	
मुख्य विशेषता	
Common Name	Alpine Musk Deer
नाम	सुनकण्ठे कस्तुरी मृग
Scientific Name	<i>Moschus chrysogaster</i>
वैज्ञानिक नाम	
Lenghth	86-100 cm
लम्बाई	८६-१०० से.मि
Height	51-53 cm
उचाई	५१-५३ से.मि.
Global Status	Endangered
अवस्था (विश्व)	सङ्कटापन्न
National Status	Endangered
अवस्था (राष्ट्रिय)	सङ्कटापन्न
Global Population	N/A
सङ्ख्या (विश्व)	थाहा छैन
National Population	N/A
सङ्ख्या (राष्ट्रिय)	थाहा छैन
Global Distribution	India, Nepal, Bhutan and China
फैलावट (विश्व)	नेपाल, भारत, भुटान र चीन
National Distribution	High mountainous region above 2500m
फैलावट (राष्ट्रिय)	नेपालको २५०० मि. भन्दा माथिको हिमाली क्षेत्रमा
Threats	Poaching for Muskpod
खतरा	कस्तुरी बिनाको लागि शिकार

The Hariyo Ban Program is named after the famous Nepali saying 'Hariyo Ban Nepal ko Dhan' (Healthy green forests are the wealth of Nepal). It is a USAID funded initiative that aims to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and threats to biodiversity in Nepal. This will be accomplished by working with the government, communities, civil society and private sector. In particular, the Hariyo Ban Program works to empower Nepal's local communities in safeguarding the country's living heritage and adapting to climate change through sound conservation and livelihood approaches. Thus the Program emphasizes the links between people and forests and is designed to benefit nature and people in Nepal. At the heart of Hariyo Ban lie three interwoven components – biodiversity conservation, payments for ecosystem services including REDD+ and climate change adaptation. These are supported by livelihoods, governance, and gender and social inclusion as cross-cutting themes. A consortium of four non-governmental organizations is implementing the Hariyo Ban Program with WWF Nepal leading the consortium alongside CARE Nepal, FECOFUN and NTNC.

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