



CIC MARKHOR AWARD

- For Outstanding Conservation Performance -
2010

The *CIC Markhor Award* honors a conservation project of multinational relevance that links the conservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods through application of *sustainable use* principles. The Markhor Award is granted every two years at the occasion of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Award Selection Criteria

Preamble

Biodiversity may be defined in terms of genes, species and ecosystems as the three fundamental and hierarchically-related levels of biological organisation. Global biodiversity has both tremendous intrinsic and instrumental value, for which substitutes cannot easily be found, if at all. Biodiversity provides opportunities for instrumental use, observation and education, recreation and enjoyment.

There is increasing evidence of a global decline in biodiversity. The principal reason for this tendency is some form of human activity, often associated with changes in land use. The loss of global biodiversity is causing major concern. Most prominently this concern is embodied for example in the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Among others, the Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes the importance of sustainable use of biodiversity as renewable natural resource in order to conserve it. Using biodiversity sustainably means doing so in such a way that does not threaten a species by over-use, yet it will optimize benefits to both the environment and human needs. Sustainably using natural resources, such as wildlife, is an important conservation tool when addressing the increasing pressures on ecosystems by people. The sustainable use of renewable biological resources is one of the best ways to ensure the continued conservation of biological diversity.

Hunting as one of the oldest forms of land use can have an outstanding potential in the conservation of biodiversity if it is performed sustainably. As integral land use both in cultural (anthropogenic) and in (the remaining) natural ecosystems, hunting as part of an adapted wildlife management can facilitate the conservation of biodiversity from the level of genes over the species level up to the ecosystem level – directly or indirectly.

Objective

In order to recognize and celebrate outstanding conservation performance through sustainable use, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) awards the “Markhor Award” to personalities, institutions, enterprises or conservation projects that link the conservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods through the application of the principles of sustainable use, in particular hunting, as part of wildlife and ecosystem management.

This excellence award recognizes environmental and conservation leaders, who are solving challenges in the field of conservation of biodiversity through sustainable hunting by using innovative and sustainable practices or creative partnerships.

The award consists of a Markhor bronze statue and a financial reward.

Main eligibility criteria

1. Activities of the applicant have provable, substantial and long lasting benefits for the conservation status of one or more wildlife species and its habitat. The focus is on the conservation or reintroduction of natural biodiversity on the base of hunting as part of sustainable game/wildlife/habitat management. Of importance is adherence and implementation of the *Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines* as an integral part of the management of eligible projects.
2. Conservation leadership, practical conservation relevance and long term benefits of previous, current and future work of the project or the candidate as example of “best practices” of conservation of biodiversity through sustainable hunting
3. Activities of the applicant secure genetic exchange between subpopulations of wildlife species and migratory movements supporting the reestablishment where it has gone extinct and facilitating adaptation processes being essential due to habitat alteration in the course of global warming.

4. Revenue from sustainable hunting supports wildlife conservation, the livelihoods of people living in or near to the wildlife areas or rural development initiatives such as health care, education and food supply.
5. Special consideration is given to those projects that have multinational relevance, particularly projects that involve cross-border cooperation and innovative partnerships for conservation and community-based natural resources management.

Eligible Applicants

- businesses (forestry, hunting, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, etc.)
- educational institutions
- non-profit organizations
- local, state and federal government
- individuals

Nominations

The candidate should provide sufficient evidence in writing of all activities and the results achieved. Supporting materials like publications, letters, newspaper articles, and photos are essential.

Nominations shall include an extensive documentation, underlined by scientific data on the past min. 3 years' achievements reached and methods used, as well as min. 2 references from higher governmental authorities or international organizations or CIC National Delegations.

Schedule

The prize was first given in 2008 and is handed out during each Conference of Parties to the CBD (CBD COP), which takes place on a bi-annual basis.