



Argali, wild sheep ['ɑ: gəli],

The Argali (*Ovis ammon*) is the largest wild sheep on the Earth.

Habitat :The Argali inhabits steppe valleys and rocky areas and open deserts, mountains of central and northern Asia, with main populations in the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The Argali are usually found in groups of 2 to 100 animals.

Appearance: The Argali sheep is related with a domestic sheep, it is about the same length as a domestic sheep but it is much taller and heavier. They have large, curved horns; the sound of clashing horns is heard far away in the mountains. Their coat ranges from light yellow to darker grey-brown in color. Sheep are very calm and non aggressive towards other sheep, and are very social animals. Strong long legs help these sheep run over all types of territories. Because of their large size, Argali sheep are poor jumpers and do not usually jump in the mountains.

Food: They eat grass. During summer as food becomes more, higher areas are chosen by all animals.

WWF are working to ensure such species can live and survive in their natural habitats.

What are the main threats? These species are as one of the most ecologically, economically and/or culturally important species on our planet

Main threats to The Argali sheep come from humans and human activity. These include:

1. Over-hunting and poaching
2. Competition from introduction of domestic sheep
3. Diseases from domestic sheep
4. Habitat loss

What is WWF doing?

WWF works with governments to protect them and return them into their wild habitat. It also provides support to authorities seeking to improve regulation and monitoring of hunting. For example, WWF Mongolia worked with the government to produce a conservation plan for the argali.