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As a common prey in the history, Chinese water deer (*Hydropotes inermis*) are endangered and the population still declining. Efforts to protect them in local areas are difficult to enforce. There are attempts to reintroduce Chinese water deer to areas where it has now become extinct (e.g. Shanghai). Conservation efforts will be continued and get support from locals. There is now a population established in the suburban area of Shanghai. Recovery of Chinese water deer in the economically developed and history distributed area may be a valid conservation method. And it may be a way to recovery endangered species in China.

Keyword: Chinese water deer, *Hydropotes inermis*, reintroduce

**D10 A community based approach towards protecting an endangered deer: A case study of Parque Protegido Municipal Shoonem, Argentina**

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Preservation of natural habitats through participation of inhabitants of local communities, fostering enhancement of their economic capacities, is a well recognized strategy throughout the world. The municipality of Alto Río Senguer (MARS; a rural Argentine community of 1700 inhabitants), through concern to protect the valuable natural resources within their jurisdiction, has been working with this approach in a manner that can serve as an exemplary model. They created a protected area in 2013, (ca.150,000 ha), naming it Parque Protegido Municipal Shoonem (PPMS), signifying
huemul in the tongue of the native Tehuelche people, the original inhabitants of this region. As a novel strategy for Argentina, the huemul (Hippocamelus bisulcus), an endangered deer of southern Argentina and Chile, was chosen as the umbrella species under which the park management program is being developed. Already holding an emblematic status, given National Monument distinction in 1996 and represented on MARS' coat of arms, this flagship species forms the cornerstone upon which the myriad tasks are being conducted in PPMS. Protecting the huemul implicates protecting the habitat. Given the species' special protection under federal and provincial law, having the huemul represent the backbone of the park's interests should also facilitate relations with federal and provincial government agencies for any activities that might call for cooperation. A variety of stakeholders founded the NGO Fundación Shoone (June 2014) to protect the natural resources corresponding to the Río Senguer watershed. A main reason behind creation of this Foundation was to provide a means to manage the newly protected area, since the municipal government, administrating this small, impoverished rural community, lacks the capacity. The Foundation has thus been tasked to write the park management plan and obtain funding for general park operations. Current priorities for the Foundation involve a recovery plan for this huemul population, including a research project to study the theorized cause behind the population's failure to recover, and the establishment of a rehabilitation center for wildlife. The ultimate goal of the recovery program is to achieve repopulating huemul to the grasslands to the east, which are confirmed to have been part of their prior distributional range. Another objective of the park and the Foundation is to create jobs through responsible tourism for the younger generation of the community, currently forced to move to the big cities for employment opportunities. Today a staff of part-time and volunteer park rangers works to enforce permitted use by the visitors who come to take part in a variety of recreational activities; one aim of the Foundation is to connect the local community to the park through activities involving the youth, particularly with the charismatic huemul. Currently the stakeholders are trying to find a means to secure that laws established to protect the upper watershed of Río Senguer under the current government of MARS cannot be easily tampered by future elected officials. The legal agreements between MARS and the recently established Fundación Shoone are being designed to ensure continuity into the future and can serve as a model for other protected areas.