6th World Congress on Mountain Ungulates and 5th International Symposium in Mouflon Sheep, in Nicosia, Cyprus: 28th August - 1st September, 2016.

Lyne McFarlane, PhD, Department of Ecology, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Science, Lincoln University.

Many thanks to the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Woman, Canterbury Branch for the travel grant which enabled me to attend the 6th World Congress on Mountain Ungulates and 5th International Symposium in Mouflon Sheep in Nicosia, Cyprus. It was organised by the Republic of Cyprus Ministry of Interior with the cooperation of Frederick University and the Caprinae Specialist Group of the IUCN. The congress and symposium was well attended by leading researchers in mountain ungulates from Europe, South Africa, India, Mexico, US and one from NZ; all working with many weird and wonderful species ranging from Markhor to Marco Polo Sheep.

My PhD research at Lincoln University investigates whether selective harvest of trophy animals impacts on the population dynamics, courtship behaviour and sexual selection of New Zealand's population of Himalayan tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*). Although tahr are an introduced mountain ungulate species in New Zealand, in their native land of the Himalaya's, they are classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN. The congress and symposium is only held every four years so it was a great opportunity for me to present a poster on preliminary work, entitled "Male courtship behaviour and female response in Himalayan tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*), Eastern Canterbury, New Zealand".

I was based in Nicosia for the conference, which is the capital of Cyprus and located in the middle of the island. It was very arid and hot when I was there with temperatures averaging 35-37° C. The city is flanked by the Troodos and Pentadaktylos Mountains. Cyprus has had humans living here since pre Iron Age and has been viewed as a very desirable place and Greek, Roman, Arabs, British and Turkish invasions have occurred. Nicosia is the only divided city in the world - Cypriot one side of the island and Turkish the other and a UN green line through the middle. The geographic location of the island, at the crossroads of Africa, Europe and Asia, create a hotspot of unique Cyprus wildlife. In addition, the long isolation of the island has led to the evolution of species and subspecies unique to Cyprus, including the unique Cyprus mouflon.

Presentations that stood out for me was an interesting talk on Apennine chamois and effects of weather variations and climate change; the importance of sport hunting to nature conservation; male reproductive tactics in chamois; Iberian goat management in Spain; the impact of migratory livestock on wild ungulates and their habitats; interactions between axis deer and Moulfon (i.e. an introduced species vs native) and sessions on population monitoring.

The field trip which was very special as we were able to visit the endemic Cypriot Mouflon at the Stavros tis Psokas Forest Station breeding facility in the Troodos Mountains. A long very hot (37°C) but interesting day of winding mountain roads, the Kykkos Monastery, steep mountain villages, wonderful Cypriot food, good discussions and rare Cypriot Cedar forests.

I really enjoyed the international flavour of the congress and it was obvious a huge deal for the Cypriot people to have us visit as they were very generous and we left with many books, posters and two bottles of Cypriot mouflon wine. The congress and symposium was an excellent opportunity to

meet other biologists involved in Caprinae research to exchange ideas, discuss and establish collaborations. I received valuable feedback about my work during the poster sessions, which will definitely contribute to my current research and also provide insight into further research development.

Once again I would like to thank the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Woman, Canterbury Branch for providing me with a travel grant to support my attendance at the congress and symposium.