



## American Artist to Study Endangered Argali Mountain Sheep of Mongolia

*Susan Fox wins Artists for Conservation Flag Expedition Fellowship to study the Argali Mountain Sheep and the Desert-Steppe of Mongolia.*

**Vancouver, B.C., CANADA -- (May 1, 2009)**— The Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC) is pleased to announce its ninth fellowship involving a grant of \$5,000 US, under the AFC Flag Expeditions Program, awarded to wildlife artist Susan Fox of McKinleyville, California, USA. The objective of the AFC's Flag Expeditions Program is to make possible the artistic field study and rendering of endangered species or habitats deserving of greater public attention, particularly in remote parts of the world.

Ms. Fox will travel to the Ikh Nartiin Chuluu Nature Reserve in Mongolia in July of 2009 to study, sketch and photograph the endangered Argali, the world's largest mountain sheep. On-going research on the Argali is being carried out by Dr. Richard Reading of the Denver Zoological Foundation, which is collaborating with the expedition and providing access to field expertise and infrastructure.

Dr. Reading will also be using their findings to work with local people to try to induce changes in livestock husbandry practices that will benefit Argali. This has inspired Susan to use the arts to promote conservation in places like Ikh Nartiin Chuluu. To that end, in addition to her studies, sketches and photography, Susan will be helping the local herder women set up a crafts cooperative so that they have the opportunity to realize a revenue stream from the existence of the reserve, its visitors and the on-going presence of research volunteers.

As an artist providing both financial and business expertise, Susan is in a unique position to do this work. Susan has herder friends now at Ikh Nart and has long-term plans to be involved in an on-going way with the people and unique place she has come to care about.

**About the Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC):** The Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC) is the world's leading artist collective, dedicated to the preservation of our natural heritage. Its membership represents 500 of the world's top artists from 27 countries, who focus primarily on nature and wildlife. It reads like a "Who's Who" of nature art, and includes the top names in the field, such as Robert Bateman, John Banovich, Guy Coheleach, Pollyanna Pickering and David Shepherd. For more information about the AFC's innovative initiatives, visit [www.natureartists.com](http://www.natureartists.com).

**About the Flag Expeditions Program:** The AFC Flag Expeditions Program was created to make possible the field study and artistic rendering of biodiversity deserving of greater public attention. There is a strong emphasis on the study of unique, threatened habitats, and rare or endangered species in remote parts of the world. Each year at least two Fellowships are offered - each worth up to \$5,000 US. To-date, the AFC has granted 9 fellowships representing a broad geographic range: from the jungles of Central America to Russia to Africa and the Himalayas, and from the Indian Ocean to the Arctic Ocean. Each participant carries the AFC flag on their expedition and completes a detailed field journal of their trip. Samples of these journals and more information on the AFC Flag Expeditions Program, or sponsorship opportunities, can be seen by visiting the Expedition web site at [www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions/](http://www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions/).

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For further information:

- Artists for Conservation (AFC) [www.natureartists.com](http://www.natureartists.com)
- AFC Flag Expeditions Program: [www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions](http://www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions)
- Susan Fox: [www.natureartists.com/susan\\_fox.asp](http://www.natureartists.com/susan_fox.asp)
- Denver Zoological Foundation: [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

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