

**NATIONAL REPORT ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MOU AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION,
RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE SAIGA ANTELOPE**

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

This national reporting format is designed to monitor implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) by the MoU Signatories. It has been endorsed by the First Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Almaty, 25-26 September 2006). Reports on implementation will support exchange of information throughout the range and assist the identification of necessary future actions by the Signatories. The format has been designed to support the needs of the Range States, the MoU and CMS. Information gathered will also support the implementation CITES Decisions 13.27-13.35.

Please complete as appropriate and **return to the CMS Secretariat**, keeping in mind that not all sections are relevant to each State.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Range State name:	<i>Republic of Kazakhstan</i>	
1.2. Designated Focal Point with responsibility to co-ordinate MoU implementation (full contact details):	<i>Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i>	
1.3. Date submitted:	<u>01.09.2010</u>	dd/mm/yyyy
1.4. Period covered by the report:	<u>01.01.2009</u>	<u>01.06.2010</u>
	From dd/mm/yyyy to dd/mm/yyyy	
1.5. List of other agencies or NGOs that have provided input to this report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> ➤ <i>Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Education and science of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> ➤ <i>Conservation police of the Ministry of Internal affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> ➤ <i>Committee of the custom supervision of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> ➤ <i>Government RoK/UNDP/GEF Project Steppe conservation and management</i> ➤ <i>Non-governmental organization "Association for the conservation of biodiversity of Kazakhstan"</i> 	

2. CMS MoU

2.1. Has the MoU been signed? Yes No N/A

2.2. Date signed: 25.09.2006
dd/mm/yyyy

2.3. If the MoU has not been signed, what is the target date for signing?

3. SAIGA POPULATIONS

3.1. Are Saiga present all year or seasonally? All year Seasonal

Betpakdala population – all year
Ural population – all year
Ustyurt population – seasonal

3.2. If seasonal, list the months of occurrence [e.g., 3-10, 11-2]

Ustyurt saiga population inhabits Kazakhstan from April to December annually. In Kazakhstan saiga calving, summer migration within the country and rutting take place. By the end of December after rutting is finished Ustyurt saiga population migrates to the Republic of Karakalpaks and Uzbekistan to wintering

3.3. Current total population estimate.

85, 5 thousand saiga considering Ustyurt saiga mass die-off in May, 2010 in the amount of 11 920 individuals

3.4. Overall population trend Up Down Stable Mixed Unknown

3.5. List main subpopulations (if applicable) with estimated size and trend.

year	Population size, thousand individuals			
	Betpakdala	Ural	Ustyurt	Total:
2006	16,8 ▲	12,8 ▲	17,8 ▼	47,4 ▲
2007	22,8 ▲	15,6 ▲	16,4 ▼	54,8 ▲
2008	32,3 ▲	18,3 ▲	10,4 ▼	61,0 ▲
2009	45,2 ▲	26,6 ▲	9,2 ▼	81,0 ▲
2010	53,44 ▲	27,14 ▲	4,9 ▼	85,5 ▲

▲ - up

▼ - down

In spring 2010 after aerial census for Ural population in calving sites there were 11 920 dead saiga found. Results of the samples showed that the mortality took place due to pasteurellosis. Currently the possibility is being worked out to study saiga diseases and elaborate preventive measures.

3.6. Is there a national recording system/database for Saiga? Yes No

3.7. Name of agency/agencies maintaining records/database.

Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

3.8. At what intervals is the population monitored? Annually Seasonally Ad hoc N/A

3.9. What proportion of the population is monitored?
 >75% 50-75% 10-49% <10% None N/A

3.10. List agency/agencies carrying out monitoring.

Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

“Okhotzoprom ” State enterprise of the Committee of Forestry and Hunting

Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Education and science of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Non-governmental organization “Association for the conservation of biodiversity of Kazakhstan”

3.11. Methods used to carry out monitoring. Aerial Ground Vehicle Mixed

3.12. If mixed, please give details by subpopulation/area.

Saiga census is implemented annually. In April an aerial census for all populations is done (by ACBK on the plain AH-2, 215 summer hours and 38 summer hours) and if necessary ground method is applied to monitor separate saiga groups in remoteness from the essential saiga concentration. Monitoring for saiga populations in Kazakhstan is carried all the year round.

3.13. Date of most recent monitoring effort: April-May 2010
dd/mm/yyyy

3.14. Does monitoring cover:

population size? Yes No

sex/age structure? Yes No

reproductive rate? Yes No

3.15. What measures have been taken to standardise monitoring methodology with other states?

Methodological recommendations on aerial and vehicle census for saiga number were approved by the Order of the Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 23.08.2005 # № 191 and comply with commonly accepted European standards for wild animal census. Methodologies under the support of Frankfurt zoological society and ACBK were upgraded with International experts M. Norton-Griffith and Howard Frederick.

- 3.16. What is the status of Saiga in the national Red Data Book/Red List?

Saiga is not listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Kazakhstan but it is a protected species. There is a full ban to capture saiga, collect and sell out the horns regulated by the Order of the Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Responsibility measures for illegal saiga hunt as per the criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan are equally applied as for animals listed in the Red Book of Kazakhstan.

4. HABITAT

- 4.1. What proportion of Saiga habitat has been lost [.....%] or degraded? [.....%]

Currently it isn't possible to talk about degraded saiga habitat as the number of livestock animals far less than it was in 1980-1990s and there are no changes observed in saiga habitats. Also, it is impossible to say about habitat loss as saiga number for the last decade has increased which leads to increasing of saiga distribution. Together with this it should be noted that Ustyurt saiga population annually decreases. In Soviet times a problem was saiga damaging harvest in the fields. Due to the expansion of saiga habitats there is a problem with land-users (renter and private) who demand for compensation because saiga tramples their harvest.

- 4.2. What efforts have been made to restore degraded habitat and to what extent have these been successful?

See 4.1

- 4.3. Is Saiga habitat intact or fragmented?
 Intact Moderately Fragmented Severely fragmented

Intact and constantly increases

- 4.4. List any significant physical barriers on Saiga migration routes: (e.g. pipelines, roads, railways, canals).

Railways and gas and oil pipelines being built

- 4.5. Is the impact of proposed developments in Saiga range assessed? Yes No

- 4.6. How is this enforced?

When projecting pipelines and railways in saiga habitats there is an environment impact assessment done which takes into account saiga migratory ways and envisages facilities which would allow to safe migrating. Also, large edifices are constructed with minimal impact on the regional biodiversity.

- 4.7. What percentage of Saiga range is covered by protected areas? [.....%]

Currently less than 5 % of saiga habitat is covered by protected areas

- 4.8. List all protected areas in Saiga range, together with IUCN management category, area (hectares), seasons/months when Saiga are present, estimated number of Saiga present, and whether these include rutting/calving areas.

Name	Size (ha)	IUCN category*	Months Saiga present	Estimated numbers	Rutting	Calving
Irgiz-Turgai rezervat	763 549	Ib	March-December	More than 5000	+	+
Korgalzhyn reserve	543 171	Ia and Ib	All the year around	3 000	+	+
Andasai sanctuary	1 000 000	IV, V or VI	December-March	более 5 000	+	
Sarykopa sanctuary	51 200	IV, V or VI	December-March	Up to 1 000		
Ulytau sanctuary	19 300	IV, V or VI	December-March	Up to 1 000		

- * - Michael R Appleton (France), "Review of the Law on protected areas (2006) with recommendations on amendments and additions", Astana, 2010

- 4.9. List any other protected areas that have been proposed or identified?

In Zhasyl Damu programme for 2010-2014 developed as per the President Decree dated February 1, 2010 #922 "On strategic development plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan to 2020" the Ministry of Environment Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan envisage to develop the "green economy", to lower anthropogenic impact on the environment, conservation and recovery of natural ecosystems, to develop and upgrade environment management system as well as to expand protected areas.

Name	Size (ha)	IUCN category*	Months Saiga present	Estimated numbers	Rutting	Calving
Altyn dala rezervat	489 774	Ib	March-December	More than 10 000	+	+
Bokeiorda-Zhayik	≈ 500 000	Ib	All the year round	More than 10 000	+	+
Irgiz-Turgai rezervat (expansion)	241 500	Ib	March-December	5 000	+	+
Andasai sanctuary (expansion)	3 000 000	IV, V or VI	December-March	Up to 2 000	+	
Ulytau sanctuary (expansion)	50 000	IV, V or VI	December-March	Up to 2 000	+	

- * - Michael R Appleton (France), "Review of the Law on protected areas (2006) with recommendations on amendments and additions", Astana, 2010

- 4.10. List key areas of Saiga range lacking any protected areas.

In West Kazakhstan, Aktyubinskaya, Mangistauskaya, Kyzylkordinskaya, Karagandinskaya oblasts (regions) there are no protected areas for saiga conservation. Saiga distribution

habitat occupies about 123 million ha and main saiga concentration sites are distributed within the large areas. To establish PA in these sites would require large lands and appropriate funding to maintain a PA which currently doesn't make any sense as every PA established would be more than 1 million ha.

5. POPULATIONS SHARED BETWEEN RANGE STATES

- 5.1 What transboundary initiatives have been taken for Saiga populations shared with neighbouring States or that migrate to other Range States?

Agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of Turkmenistan on conservation, restoration and use of Saiga (Astana 28.05.2007)

Agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on conservation, restoration and sustainable development of Saiga stock (Tashkent, 17.03.2010). Before that, on February, 23, 2008 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) Joint action plan was signed on conservation of Ustyurt saiga population between the Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and State committee of nature conservation of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2008-2010.

- 5.2 List any transboundary protected areas.

No transboundary PAs

- 5.3 List any transboundary protected areas that are planned.

No transboundary PAs planned

6. LAWS, INSTITUTIONS & TRADE

- 6.1. List Government agencies active in Saiga conservation and management and their functions related to Saiga.

Okhotzoprom state enterprise leads conservation, monitoring and census for three saiga populations inhabiting Kazakhstan area. Rangers from Okhotzoprom State enterprise (111 rangers involved in saiga conservation) are entitled to compile reports on administrative and criminal responsibility for trespasser within conservation, restoration and wild life use with further submission of the materials to the investigation agency of Kazakhstan. Rangers are equipped with high quality vehicles, firearm, uniform outfit, communication facilities, navigators and other means of protection. To monitor and conduct conservation activities the Okhotzoprom uses its own helicopter MI-2. These activities are funded from the state budget and own resources

“Irgiz-Turgai state nature rezervat” (99 rangers) and “Korgalzhyn state nature reserve” (54 rangers) State institutions appear to be protected areas with a status of legal body and are funded from the state budget. These institutions protect and monitor saiga inhabiting protected areas and Turgai state nature sanctuary. Rangers are equipped with high quality vehicles, firearm, uniform outfit, communication facilities, navigators and other modern means of protection

State rangers from regional territorial inspections of forestry and hunting (Akmoliskaya, Aktyubinskaya, Almatinskaya, Atyrauskaya, Zhambylskaya, West Kazakhstan, Karagandinskaya, Kostanaiskaya, Kyzylordinskaya and Mangistauskaya regions) perform state supervision on conservation, restoration and wildlife use and lead conservation measures to prevent saiga poaching within these regions. Rangers (160 people) are entitled to compile reports on administrative and criminal responsibility for trespasser within conservation, restoration and wild life use with further submission of the materials to the investigation agency of Kazakhstan. They are equipped with high quality vehicles, firearm, uniform outfit, communication facilities, navigators and other modern means of protection. State rangers are maintained by republican budget

State rangers from conservation police appear to be officials of the Ministry of internal affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and provide the law and legislation enforcement in terms of the wildlife. Together with Okhotzooptom state enterprise and regional inspections they take part in saiga conservation raids and anti-poaching activities and submit the documents to a court

Science associates of the Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of education and science together with Okhotzooptom state enterprise monitor saiga, count number and identify the sex-age structure. Also they lead work on saiga biology, changes in habitat distribution, climate change impact and anthropogenic influence. The Institute of Zoology provides with scientific justification for saiga conservation activities

State rangers from the Committee of custom supervision appear to be officials of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan and together with Okhotzooptom state enterprise and regional inspections they take part in suppression of illegal transit of saiga product through the state border of Kazakhstan.

Ministry of environment protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan is a central executive body of the country which administers and carries out an inter-branch coordination on the state policy within environment and nature management and ecologically sustainable development of society. Together with the mentioned Ministry a common state policy is being elaborated concerning conservation, restoration and wildlife use and protected areas.

6.1.1 Non-governmental organizations which are actively working on saiga conservation and management and their saiga related functions.

Non-governmental organization “Association for the conservation of biodiversity of Kazakhstan” (NGO ACBK) leads saiga monitoring in the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative area. ACBK has funded the establishment of 2 mobile groups and equipped with satellite connection and other required technical facilities, takes part in saiga conservation raids jointly with law-enforcement and conservation agencies. ACBK also takes part in census and research as well as the outreach for saiga conservation among local population. There were printed 3000 copies of two posters for schools on saiga and steppe ecosystems, brochures on steppe ecosystem and anti-poaching (4000 copies) and steppe manual. School headmasters and teachers at saiga habitats were given learning materials, in 37 schools there were special lessons for school students on saiga and nature conservation. For saiga conservation there were 3 wildlife management areas assigned for ACBK NGO covering 1300 thousand ha and in these areas the ACBK game service (7 people, 4 vehicles) conduct conservation measures.

“Akbroken” Social fund (Akbroken means saiga in Kazakh) fulfils a social saiga protection. 2 mobile groups were established by the fund and equipped with satellite communication and other technical means, high-speed vehicles like jeep. The fund takes part in conservation raids, conserves saiga inhabiting wildlife management areas, and outreaches the saiga conservation among local population.

“Seimar Social Fund” charity fund leads the “SOS-saiga” action for 50 030 068 KZT, within the framework of this action Okhotzooptom purchased and submitted the following logistics:

- 1) *truck vans (Kungi 4321-15) based on KAMAZ - 4 units;*
- 2) *UAZ cars – 10 units;*
- 3) *satellite communication terminal – 20 units;*
- 4) *night observation device - 10 units;*
- 5) *vehicle portable radio– 10 units;*
- 6) *portable radio– 20 units;*
- 7) *ranger uniform (winter and summer)- 50 units;*
- 8) *GPS radio set-20 units;*
- 9) *cameras – 5 units.*

Besides, charity fund «Seimar Social Fund» within the framework «SOS-saiga» social programme for 12 408 485 KZT worked out and covered in mass-media:

- 1) *Saiga documentary “following the eternal nomad tracks” issued in Kazakh, Russian and English “following the eternal tracks”. Grant in the amount of 6 982 500 KZT provided by “Gala TV” LLP;*
- 2) *Five social clips about saiga. Grant in the amount of 2 327 500 KZT provided “Images” Art centre*
- 3) *Manual for schools “Eurasian steppe miracle”. Grant in the amount of 645 000 KZT;*
- 4) *“Saiga saga” cartoon in two parts in Kazakh, Russian and English. Grant in the amount of 2 453 485 KZT;*
- 5) *Two journalist raids in Betpakdala saiga habitat with several reports «SOS-saiga» on TV and in the national paper;*
- 6) *Two contests among journalists on the best saiga coverage;*
- 7) *“Disappearing beauty of Kazakhstan” film production and “Kazakh steppe tales” cartoon making.*

- 6.2. Has a national strategy or action plan for Saiga been developed? Yes No
[Details]

Government of Kazakhstan approved the Programme on conservation and rational use of water resources, wild animals and development of PA network to 2010. It includes funds for the saiga conservation, census and monitoring. Currently there is a new state programme called “Zhasyl Damu” for 2010-2014 which includes the saiga conservation, census and monitoring.

Thus it is planned to put in the saiga census and monitoring 18,9 million KZT in 2010, in 2011 – 26,1 million KZT, 2012 – 29,5 million KZT, 2013 – 33,3 million KZT, 2014 - 33,3 million KZT from the republican budget. The saiga protection is to be funded as follows: in 2010 - 250,1 million KZT, 2011 – 389 million KZT, 2012– 601,8 million KZT, 2013 - 659 million KZT, 2014– 659 million KZT.

- 6.3. What is the legal status of Saiga?

Protected species

6.4. Provide details and references of relevant legislation.

An order of the Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 22.09.2005 under # 206 and called “setting up a ban to outtake the saiga of the Republic of Kazakhstan” states the saiga hunt and the production trade off are banned in the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2011.

Currently a new Order is being worked out by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning the saiga hunt interdiction in the country up to 2020.

6.5. How does current legislation regulate

- hunting of Saiga? Banned
- keeping and breeding of Saiga? *Not Practiced*
- possession of Saiga parts and derivatives? *Banned*
- domestic trade in Saiga parts and derivatives? *Banned*
- import and (re-) export of Saiga parts and derivatives, and live animals? *In accordance with CITES*

6.6. Which agencies or departments are in charge of enforcing the legislation?

[Indicate those charged with *in situ* protection, e.g. anti-poaching or surveillance of protected areas, and those charged with controlling legal and illegal trade in Saiga.]

- *Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and its territorial agencies*
 - *Ministry of Internal affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan*
 - *Committee of custom supervision of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan*
 - *Ministry of environment protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan*
- Game management agencies located in the hunting farms*

6.7. What penalties are applicable for infringements of the legislation?

In Accordance with Administrative Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan an illegal saiga hunt there is a fine for an individual: for male one - 2 000 \$USA, for female – 1 500 \$USA, for an offspring (including non-born) 50 % of the female fine. Besides Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan for saiga poaching there is criminal responsibility which foresees an imprisonment up to 4 years with confiscation of the property used for illegal saiga hunting.

6.8. Provide details of activities undertaken since 2004 to control legal and illegal trade in parts and derivatives of Saiga, including: controls and inspections; seizures and confiscations; and prosecutions.

Rangers from regional territorial inspections and Okhotzooptom state enterprise all the year round conduct anti-poaching activities as a result of which large poaching matters were prevented.

In 2006 there were found about 11 poaching matters and taken 106 saiga carcasses and the damage to the state was more than 21,5 million KZT, in 2007 12 poaching matters prevented and 44 carcasses taken, the damage to the state was 7 million KZT.

In 2008 there were 8 poaching matters, taken 57 saiga, the damage was more than 11, 5 million KZT, in 2009 there were 15 poaching matters, 92 carcasses taken, the damage was more than 18 million KZT. For the first half-year 2010 there were 8 poaching matters, 76 saiga taken and the damage was more than 9 million KZT. From 2007 to July, 2010 by court verdict there were 27 people condemned, 318 horns taken, 1,8 million KZT fine imposed, 4 vehicles and 22 firearms confiscated.

- 6.9. Do stocks of horns or other Saiga products exist in your country? If so, provide details on: size and nature of the stocks; source of the stocks; owners of the stocks; stock registration and monitoring system; and controls of these stocks.

There are no stocks of horn in the country. In Kazakhstan it is forbidden to collect and acquire the saiga horn stocks as well as to keep them and sell.

- 6.10. What happens to confiscated parts and derivatives? Destroyed Stored
[Details]

After the court decision related to individuals infringing the legislation, the confiscated horns and carcasses are destroyed.

- 6.11. Have customs and other law enforcement officers been made aware of legislation concerning Saiga? Have they received training in identifying Saiga parts and derivatives?

To provide an assistance to custom and border service of the conservation police, veterinary and phyto-sanitary control and other conservation agencies in the identification of flora and fauna species covered by CITES the Committee of forestry and hunting together with World Wildlife Fund within the Government RoK/UNDP/GEF Project "Integrated conservation of priority globally significant migratory bird habitat: a demonstration on three sites" prepared a large printing of Brief determinant for animals and plants listed in the CITES Annex distributed among all border and custom points.

Annually workshops take place for border and custom staff to identify animal and plants as well as their production included in the CITES Annex.

There are joint activities with law-enforcement, custom, conservation and border agencies to protect saiga in compliance with the approved plan and the outputs of those activities are considered at joint meetings.

- 6.12. Provide details of activities undertaken since 2004 to protect Saiga *in situ*, including: patrolling and surveying efforts; anti-poaching actions; prosecutions for poaching, etc.

There are 15 groups of rangers from Okhotzooptom state enterprise to conserve Saiga in Kazakhstan (111 people and 39 techniques) by patrolling saiga habitats and in joint raids with law-enforcement agencies, regional inspections they conduct anti-poaching activities. Okhotzooptom state enterprise has a helicopter MI-2 which is used along with ground transport which increases the performance of poaching revelation. Ranger groups are equipped with high quality vehicles, satellite communication facilities and navigators, radio stations, uniform outfit with badge of merit, modern cameras, night facilities and binoculars.

Thus in 2005 there were arrested 13 citizens of Kazakhstan and 2 citizens of Republic of Karakalpak and Uzbekistan and 60 saiga carcasses taken; in 2006 there were arrested 15 citizens of Kazakhstan and 4 citizens of Uzbekistan and 106 saiga carcasses taken; in 2007 there were arrested 14 citizens of Kazakhstan and 44 saiga carcasses taken; in 2008 there were arrested 26 citizens of Kazakhstan and 1 citizen of Uzbekistan – 57 saiga carcasses taken; in 2009 there were arrested 22 citizens of Kazakhstan and 92 saiga carcasses taken; in the first half year 2010 there were arrested 10 citizens of Kazakhstan and 76 saiga carcasses taken. For of these criminal cases were initiated and infringers were imprisoned for different terms including confiscation and fee payments.

- 6.13. What proportion of Saiga range is covered by ranger or police patrols? [.....%]

More than 50.%

- 6.14. Are these patrols effective in protecting Saiga?

Yes

- 6.15. What resources (personnel, material, financial) are required to ensure effectiveness of the patrols?

Due to the expansion of saiga habitats currently it is necessary to increase ranger and technique number and to foresee additional funds for conservation activities. The Committee of Forestry and Hunting puts additional funding to the republican budget for 2011.

- 6.16. Do patrols cover birthing and rutting areas? Yes No Partially N/A
[Details]

Yes for all populations

- 6.17. Do rangers inside and outside protected areas have the power of arrest? Yes No
[Details]

- 6.18. Why are Saiga poached? Has illegal killing of Saiga increased/decreased/stabilized over the last three years?

Main reason for saiga poaching is a demand for horns and meat which incites a local population and neighboring country citizens to poach because of the absence of an opportunity to earn in villages to support their families. Also, wealthy people have been known to poach saiga and they don't need money, they poach for pleasure.

For the past three years saiga poaching has increased and the saiga conservation is at the same level which prevents from protecting all saiga populations and impedes all poaching facts.

Currently seeing the shot saiga bodies with horns taken has become more frequent which means that poaching takes place more often. Poachers don't remain for long with dead animals, they rapidly take the horns off and cut meat and leave the area. Also, a large part of poachers have high-speed vehicles, for example jeeps which allows them to run away from rangers.

- 6.19. What is the estimated proportion of illegal hunting for horns [.....%]; for meat [.....%]; or for both [.....%]?

For horns – 40%

For meat – 60 %

- 6.20. Provide details of the domestic legal/illegal market for Saiga products in your country, indicating its size and nature, and whether it is growing, stable or declining.

In Kazakhstan it is forbidden to distribute any saiga products; however there are some cases of illegal trade of saiga horns collected by poaching. Some cases of illegal acquisition and exporting the saiga horns to China were revealed by custom points of Kazakhstan.

There are regular cases when Uzbek citizens illegally cross the borders between Kazakhstan and Karakalpakstan to hunt the saiga during spring migration in Aktyubinskaya region of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Some poachers manage to hide from rangers protecting Saiga migratory ways and leave the shot animals in Kazakhstan. The arrested poachers say about a constant demand for saiga meat at the markets of Karakalpakstan and Uzbekistan.

Generally in Kazakhstan the illegal saiga products` market tends to diminish due to a constant saiga protection and anti-poaching.

- 6.21. Provide details of the legal and illegal international trade in Saiga products from your country during the last five years.

For the past five years an Administrative body of CITES in Kazakhstan has given no permission for trade in saiga horns and products. Some cases of illegal export of saiga horns were revealed via the custom point of Kazakhstan.

- 6.22. Give details of any socio-economic surveys carried out concerning poaching of and illegal trade in Saiga. [details, institution, date, results].

There were no specific social-economic surveys carried out concerning poaching and illegal trade in saiga products in Kazakhstan. But there is database analysis for poaching with a view to study the poaching nature.

- 6.23. List any problems in implementing aspects of CITES relating to Saiga.

In Kazakhstan there no problems in implementing aspects of CITES relating to Saiga.

- 6.24. Describe initiatives undertaken to facilitate alternative livelihoods in communities within Saiga range.

Committee of Forestry and Hunting together with Global Environmental facility, United Nations Development Programme and Kazakhstan, World Bank and other International agencies within the framework of the launched Projects are operating to get rural population involved in alternative activities which have no negative effect on saiga habitats. These Projects hold activities to establish business environment for small enterprise to process livestock products, to arrange guesthouses for PAs, to manufacture souvenirs and organize the PA excursions.

Given that the government doesn`t fund the activities to establish an alternative livelihood source for local population in saiga habitats Kazakhstan needs an assistance of International agencies to develop this business.

7. CAPTIVE BREEDING

- 7.1. Does your country operate capture breeding facilities? Yes No N/A

7.2. List existing captive breeding facilities [locality, name, managing agency].

See 7.1

7.3. How many Saiga are held in total and at individual centres?

See 7.1

7.4. Is reproduction successful? Yes No
[Details]

See 7.1

7.5. Give details of any co-operation with captive breeding facilities in other states?

See 7.1

7.6. Have any captive-bred animals been transferred to other range states? Yes No
[Details]

See 7.1

7.7. Have any captive bred animals been released into the wild? Yes No
[number/sex/date/locality]

7.8. Are released animals subject to monitoring? Yes No N/A
[Details]

See 7.1

7.9. Are any releases planned? Yes No
[Details]

7.10. Are any new captive breeding centres planned? Yes No
[Details]

8. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

8.1. Describe the public's awareness regarding Saiga.

In Kazakhstan saiga conservation video is shown on national and local TV, republican and local TV channels. Information booklets and manuals are published for school students and distributed for free at schools located in saiga habitats. Also saiga conservation topic is reflected in the art of children and Park March conducted by protected areas.

8.2. Describe educational and publicity materials and programmes that have been developed for:

Schools “Kazakh steppe miracles”, manual for school students in Kazakh and Russian, edited by Dirks Ya, Zhirkova M.G, Karaganda, 2006.

Population posters, calendars and information brochures and bulletins on saiga conservation in Kazakh and Russian prepared by Okhotzoooprom state enterprise, NGO “Association for the conservation of biodiversity of Kazakhstan, Government of RoK/UNDP/GEF Project “Steppe conservation and management”.

Mass media making video, radio and TV appearance of the administration and staff of the Committee of Forestry and Hunting, Okhotzooform state enterprise, Institute of Zoology and the others.

Children cartoon “Saiga saga” the first and the second parts, Kazakh, Russian and English versions, “AniMaster” studio, 2008-2009.

Documentary “following the eternal nomad tracks” issued in Kazakh, Russian and English within the frameworks of the conservation action “SOS-saiga” of the charity fund «Seimar Social Fund», 2009

Social videos on saiga conservation in Kazakh and Russian prepared by Okhotzooform state enterprise and GEF Project “Integrated conservation of priority globally significant migratory bird habitat: a demonstration on three sites”, 2008-2009.

- 8.3. Is any information available on the Internet? Yes No
[Details]

http://www.fhc.kz; http://ohotzoo.kz; http://acbk.kz

- 8.4. List any surveys carried out to assess changes in public attitudes to Saiga.

CBK conducted a social interview for the people from populated points located in Betpakdala saiga habitats to study causes of saiga hunting and infringement by those people. On the errand of the Committee of Forestry and Hunting a similar questionnaire was done for hunting farms of game habitats that saiga inhabits.

9. ECOLOGICAL STUDIES

- 9.1. Have any studies been carried out on habitat requirements? Yes No
[Details]

Within the framework of GEF Project “Steppe conservation and management” there were field surveys conducted for the Betpakdala saiga population habitats and calving sites. Ecosystems and their effect on summer saiga migration were defined.

To obtain reliable information on terms, direction of saiga migration and saiga concentration the saigas were marked satellite with modern satellite collars.

In 2009 ACBK NGO collared 20 saigas of Betpakdala population with satellite transmitters. Currently the data obtained from 13 transmitters are weekly processed by experts and that helps identify the appropriate conservation measures. It's planned to set up 25 more satellite collars in 2010 so the work will continue within the next years.

In November, 2009 in Aktyubinskaya oblast of Kazakhstan for Ustyurt saiga population the staff of Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Education and Science together with Tottori University (Japan), Okhotzooform state enterprise and representatives of Institute of Zoology of Uzbekistan set up 5 satellite transmitters out of which 3 stopped signaling immediately and the rest 2 keep giving data on saiga location. Considering that the data

from these 2 transmitters were given the Committee of Forestry and Hunting with delay in August of 2010 in the form of general report it is not possible to use them for saiga conservation. There is a verbal arrangement with Japan to continue this work in 2010.

- 9.2. Is the location of rutting and calving grounds known? Yes No
[Details]

Betpakdala population – calving and rutting grounds are located to the south of Kostanai oblast (region), to the west of Karagandinskaya oblast, to the east of Aktyubinskaya oblast and south-west of Akmolinskaya oblast.

Ural population – calving and rutting grounds are located to the south and west of West Kazakhstan oblast and north-west of Atyrauskaya oblast.

Ustyurt population – calving and rutting grounds are located to the south of Aktyubinskaya oblast and north-east of Mangystauskaya oblast.

- 9.3. Are migration routes known? Yes No
[Details]

Betpakdala population – migration routes are located to the south of Kostanaiskaya oblast and to the south of Karagandinskaya oblast, to the east of Aktyubinskaya oblast and south-west of Akmolinskaya oblast, to the north of Kyzylordinskaya, South-Kazakhstan and Zhambylskaya oblasts.

Ural population - migration routes are located to the west and north of West Kazakhstan oblast and north-west of Atyrauskaya oblast on the frontier with Russian Federation.

Ustyurt population – migration routes are located to the south-west of Aktyubinskaya oblast and north-east of Mangystauskaya oblast to Karakalpakstan and Uzbekistan. Also small herds of saiga migrate from the south and west of Mangystauskaya oblast to the frontier with Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

- 9.4. Have any studies into dietary competition with domestic livestock been undertaken? Yes No
[Details]

There is no need for that kind of study as saiga mostly inhabits areas with no livestock and people. Besides existing farms don't have many domestic animals which excludes the dietary competition with domestic livestock.

- 9.5. Has any research into disease and pathogens been carried out? Yes No
[Details]

No research has been carried out into animal disease in Kazakhstan. Given the occurred mass mortality of Ural population in May, 2010 and unexplored saiga diseases the Committee of Forestry and hunting is undertaking measures to identify funding source for research to be carried out into saiga disease which might cause a mass die-off . Together with state authorities and research agencies concerned there have been identified research topics and funding volume.

- 9.6. List any recent and ongoing ecological studies, with details of reports or publications. Yes No
[Details]

Annually the Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Education and science carries out research into identification of number, sex-age structure for Betpakdala, Ustyrt and Ural populations, monitoring the status.

According to the Programme on fundamental research the Institute carries out the research called “terrestrial vertebrates of Kazakhstan as a conservation item and use in current economic conditions” in which saiga is one of the studied items.

- 9.7. Are the causes of natural mortality understood? Yes No
[Details]

The main causes of saiga natural mortality - old age, victims of predators, broken limbs. Also, the weakness of males after the rut, because animals are greatly weakened after covering a large number of females and the death of females during calving, mainly in primiparas, because of improper diligence fetus. The natural death of newly born calves from predators.

- 9.8. What are the main natural predators?

Main predator preying upon adult saiga is wolf. Fox, corsac, steppe eagle, golden eagle and wolf feed upon new-born saiga.

- 9.9. Are there any predator control programmes in the Saiga’s range? Yes No
[Details]

Within the framework of the Programme on conservation and rational use of water resources, wild animals and PA network until 2010 there are funds to eliminate wolves in saiga habitats and annually more than 1500 wolves are captured.

In the meantime according to the actual legislation of Kazakhstan to capture wolves there is no special permission needed. Any permission for capturing predators is enough to capture wolf. Also, wolf is a predator that needs to be regulated.

10. THREATS

Rate the impact of the main threats to Saiga in your country

	Nil	Low	Medium	High	Very high	Unknown
Hunting for meat				+		
Hunting for horns/trade					+	
Habitat loss		+				
Livestock competition		+				
Disease				+		
Climate		+				
Climate		+				
Predation		+				
Fragmentation		+				
Demographic factors		+				
Barriers to migration			+			
Other (Please specify)						+

11. ACTION

Which priority measures to conserve or restore Saiga does your country wish to take in the next 5 years?

Establish and expand existing protected areas in saiga habitats. Establish the “Altyn Dala” state nature rezervat in Kostanaiskaya oblast (Altyn Dala – in Kazakh means “golden steppe”) covering 489 thousand ha in 2012 and establish Bokeiorda Zhayik state nature rezervat in West-Kazakhstan oblast covering 500 thousand ha in 2014 and establish ecological corridor covering 460 thousand ha in 2010 linking migratory saiga routes from Irgiz-Turgai rezervat to establishing Altyn Dala rezervat. Expand Irgiz-Turgai rezervat in Aktyubinskaya oblast in 2011 increasing by 250 thousand ha, expand Ulytau sanctuary by 50 thousand ha in 2012. Expand Andasai sanctuary from 1 million ha to 3 million ha in 2010-2011.

Enhance state funding for conservation activities and saiga census and get donors involved in saiga conservation and activities with local population and young people.

Get additional financing involved in studies into migratory routes of Ural and Ustyurt saiga populations by the satellite transmitters and mapping saiga habitats.

Get International agencies and experts involved in saiga disease studies and working out preventive measures.

Get donor funding for printing materials and video making aimed at saiga conservation and their habitats as well as conservation of wild animals of Kazakhstan.

Ban saiga hunting in Kazakhstan until 2020 which will enable increasing in numbers and undertake the appropriate conservation measures.

Enhance state funding for saiga conservation given the number increase and habitat expansion.

Get game service of hunting farms involved in saiga conservation in wildlife management areas and provide their financial concern in saiga conservation.

12. OTHER MEASURES

Please provide details of any other country-specific actions taken that have not been covered yet.

It is important to hold mass outreach activities for saiga conservation among population for law-enforcement and solicitous attitude to saiga conservation.

With this view from 2005 to July, 2010 Okhotzooptom state enterprise published 59 articles, issued 24 video, distributed a visual campaign – 6500 posters, 4500 brochures.

The outreach activities being done by NGO-Charity fund “Seimar Social Fund” within the framework SOS-saiga social programme given in section 6.1.1.

Normally to reinforce conservation measures a national joint action plan of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Internal affairs, custom and border service on saiga conservation is worked out and approved annually. Then similar action plans are adopted by regional territorial bodies. Outcomes of the implementation are obligatory considered at special meetings with state authorities concerned.

*As informed before to the Secretariat of Bonn Convention (a letter of the Committee of Forestry and Hunting dated 31.05.2010г. #25-03-07-10/862-II) for the period from 18 to 21 May, 2010 in West-Kazakhstan oblast there occurred mortality of 11920 individuals of Ural saiga population. Considering that Ural population migrates to the neighboring Saratov region of Russian Federation the same information was sent to the Ministry of natural resources and ecology of Russia. On 18, May rangers from Okhotzooptom state enterprise of the Committee of Forestry and Hunting who were protecting saiga and observing the status of the animals during calving, informed on the dead carcasses found in mass calving site. On the instruction of the Government there was established an inter-departmental commission to investigate causes of mass mortality and eliminate the consequences. The commission included the Ministries of agriculture, internal affairs, emergency, defense, environment protection, education and science and akimats (governing body) of West-Kazakhstan oblast. The 7 specialized agencies collected pathologic materials from dead animals, soil, water, vegetation sample where dead carcasses were found. Additional toxicological analysis and analysis for the death matter of other mammals and birds were conducted by the ACBK expert groups. In population points a veterinary service put quarantine, made household raids and additional vaccination for livestock animals, and medical observation and sanitary activities. Carcasses of dead animals were buried with disinfection of the site. In Zhanibek district and other adjusting districts of saiga migration there is a monitoring conducted with AH-2 plane and helicopters. Based on the lab conclusion the commission regards the main mortality cause to be **Pasteurella multocida**. Healthy saiga is known to carry pasteurella and when exposed to stress the outbreak may occur. This caused mass mortality in Ural oblast of 250 thousand saiga animals in April, 1984 and in Turgai oblast of 434 thousand animals in May, 1988. To prevent and study causes of pasteurellosis the Committee of Forestry and Hunting proposes to conduct research into pasteurellosis in the country covering pasteurellosis particularities and specific preventive measures.*

Apparently there is no saiga mass mortality at the moment.

Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Kh. Mussabayev

Signed