

## PROJECTS REPORTING TEMPLATE FOR SAIGA-RELATED ACTIVITIES

This reporting template is designed to collate information on projects carried out by intergovernmental, international non-governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as academics and other experts working on any aspect of Saiga antelope conservation and sustainable use. Information will be compiled into a table for discussion at Saiga MOU meetings. The information will be used to: (1) monitor implementation of the [Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope \(\*Saiga spp.\*\)](#) and the associated [Medium Term International Work Programme](#); (2) support exchange of information throughout the range and beyond, and assist the identification of necessary future actions; and (3) support the implementation of CITES Decisions 18.270-18.274 on Saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*).

Please complete sections as appropriate and **return to the CMS Secretariat**.

E-mail: [cms.secretariat@cms.int](mailto:cms.secretariat@cms.int); Fax: (+49 228) 815 2449

<b>Project:</b>	
<b>Country:</b> China <input type="checkbox"/> Kazakhstan <input type="checkbox"/> Mongolia <input type="checkbox"/> Russia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Turkmenistan <input type="checkbox"/> Uzbekistan <input type="checkbox"/> International <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Organisation / Contact details: WWF Russia, Valerii Shmunk, Director of Russian Caucasus Branch, vshmunk@wwf.</b>	
<b>Duration of project:</b> from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020	
<b>Location(s) of main activity: the Pre-Caspian steppes (the Republic of Kalmykia and Astrakhan Region, the Russian Federation)</b>	
<b>Sub-species:</b> <i>Saiga tatarica tatarica</i> * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Saiga tatarica mongolica</i> * <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Areas of work:</b> Anti-poaching <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecological research <input type="checkbox"/> Education and awareness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Habitat restoration <input type="checkbox"/> Protected area management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training & capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement <input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>1</sup> \* Note that CMS Parties have adopted Wilson, D.E. & Reeder, D.M. (2005) Mammal Species of the World. A taxonomic and geographic reference. Third edition. John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, USA as taxonomic reference for terrestrial mammals through [Recommendation 9.4](#) where *S. t. tatarica* is referred to as *Saiga tatarica* and *S. t. mongolica* is referred to as *Saiga borealis*.

Alternative livelihoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economic research	<input type="checkbox"/>	Captive breeding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Range mapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reintroduction/release	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
For each box ticked, please provide brief details in the project summary box below			
<p><b>Project Summary:</b> WWF Russia is implementing a 5-year project on Saiga Antelope conservation since 2018. This population is the only migratory ungulate of Europe which number has shrunken dramatically from 800,000 to 6,350 in the last 60 years due to poaching and habitat degradation. The project consists of anti-poaching measures and improving adapting capacity of the Saiga to climate change. WWF Russia is elaborating a methodology of Saiga Antelope census with quadrocopters to minimize errors rate and disturbance for the animals. Also, we are working on the updating of the National Strategy on Saiga restoration in Russia. Another initiative is a native pasture ecosystem restoration - still needs funding to be launched.</p>			
<p><b>Planned Activities:</b> 1) direct conservation via patrolling protected areas to combat poaching; 2) maintaining and improving the fire preventing measures to save native pasture ecosystem; 3) establishing a network of artificial watering sources for Saiga Antelope to reduce vulnerability to drought; 4) deployment an automatic video surveillance system in key habitats of Saiga Antelope; 5) public awareness campaigning in rural areas within Saiga range; 6) elaboration of census methodology and the Strategy of Saiga Antelope restoration in Russia.</p>			
<p><b>Achievements to date:</b> 1) the last figures show a growth population trend comparing with the baseline for 2018 particularly in adult males number; 2) the number of fires in Saiga Antelope habitat is decreasing; 3) WWF Russia has repaired 3 artesian wells in the Stepnoi Sanctuary to maintain the Saiga population in harsh summer conditions; 4) new approach on Saiga census with quadrocopters has been tested successfully.</p>			
<p><b>Reports / Publications / Information material:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) WWF <a href="#">helped to restore water wells for Saigas in the Astrakhan Region</a></li> <li>2) A <a href="#">poacher killed two Saigas, arrested in Kalmykia</a></li> <li>3) <a href="#">WWF-RUSSIA elaborates a method of Saiga's census using UAV</a></li> <li>4) <a href="#">Government of the Republic of Kalmykia on saving Saiga</a></li> <li>5) WWF <a href="#">estimated the saiga antelope number using UAV</a></li> <li>6) <a href="#">More than 5000 Saiga counted by WWF in the Northwest Pre-Caspian region</a></li> <li>7) <a href="#">Fire prevention got going in the Stepnoi Sanctuary</a></li> <li>8) WWF <a href="#">Russia reviews the results of innovative Saiga census</a></li> <li>9) <a href="#">Saiga calving season started in the Stepnoi Sanctuary</a></li> </ol>			
<p><b>Collaborators:</b> 1) Dr. A. Lushchekina, Institute of Ecology &amp; Evolution;  2) D. Dobrynin, Moscow State University;  3) O. Sukhova, Perm State National Research University;  4) A. Maslennikov, Federal State Budget Organization «Information-Analytical Center of Game Animals and Habitats».</p>			
<p><b>Budget available:</b> 100,000 Euro</p>			

**Current sponsors: 1) WWF-Russia (national fundraising); 2) WWF Network.**

**Past sponsors: -**

**Information contributed by: Valerii Shmunk**

**Date report submitted:** 030/07/2020  
dd/mm/yyyy

**Other:**