



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/Saiga/MOS4/Inf.14.2

Original: English

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE SAIGA ANTELOPE

FOURTH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING  
CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE  
USE OF THE SAIGA ANTELOPE

Russian Federation, Online, 28 – 29 September 2021

#### REPORT ON MOU COORDINATION ACTIVITIES BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY OF KAZAKHSTAN, 2015-2021.

**Summary:**

This document outlines the activities of the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan as one of the two organizations that have provided technical coordination of the Saiga MOU in agreement with the decision of the Second Meeting of Signatories to Saiga MOU (MOS2). These include both activities paid for by the CMS Secretariat and other activities that the NGO has undertaken to support the communication and coordination among Saiga experts and Range States.

**Action requested:**

- Take note of the report
- Make any recommendations, if necessary

## **1. Aim of the coordination agreement**

At their second Meeting in September 2010, Signatories of the MOU agreed that the technical coordination of the MOU would be provided by two NGOs: the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK) and the Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA). Both organizations are working together to facilitate communication and information exchange between the Saiga Range States in order to support implementation of the MOU.

The objective of the agreement is to draw upon the complementary experience, expertise and knowledge on best practice of both organizations. ACBK and SCA provide technical and logistical support for the coordination of the implementation of the Saiga MoU and its MTIWP through the following activities:

- a. Support to the CMS in technical and logistical matters, such as the preparation for meetings of Signatories to the Saiga MOU and the organization of technical meetings and acting as focal points for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative.
- b. Development of mechanisms for broader communication between all interested parties, so that the results of saiga projects, and progress being made under the Saiga MOU is communicated to all, and a positive atmosphere of collaboration and work towards a joint goal can be fostered.
- c. A proactive approach to driving saiga conservation forward internationally, so that the Saiga MOU is not just being passively supported, but coordination has a positive effect in increasing saiga conservation activities.
- d. Provision of technical advisory services for the Saiga MOU, including addressing daily Saiga MOU coordination questions from Saiga MOU stakeholders and other interested individuals.

This report contains only activities related to the Saiga MOU coordination directly. All the activities that have particular relevance to the priority actions on the MTIWP were outlined in the [Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative report](#).

ACBK was actively involved in MOU coordination work until 2018 as we had a specialist dedicated for this work. However, with that person leaving on maternity leave in 2018, we faced a lack of capacity within the organization and our role was limited to regular provision of information to Saiga News and the Saiga Resource Center, research, awareness raising and facilitation of engagement with the Government of Kazakhstan.

## **2. Activities carried out under the coordination agreement**

### **2.1 CMS-funded activities**

Thanks to the Small-Scale Funding Agreements (SFFA) we were able to conduct following activities:

#### **20.10.2016 to 15.12.2016.**

Capacity-building materials based on “Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia” in English and Russian languages were prepared. Relevant institutions based in Kazakhstan and other countries in Central Asia received copies of the infrastructure guidelines and accompanying interpretative information made available in the regional language, and relevant representatives were made aware of the impact of infrastructure on migratory species as well as mitigation options.

### **01.06.2016 to 15.10.2016.**

A team within ACBK participated in the preparation of an Emergency Disease Protocol in English and Russian languages and distributed it among Kazakh stakeholders. The purpose of this is to provide guidance to veterinary laboratories during future mass mortality events, triggered by the saiga mass die off in 2015. By creating a more comprehensive and uniform documentation of future disease outbreaks we hope to enable better and faster reactions and analysis. The protocol can be viewed in Russian and English [here](#)

### **2018 – ongoing**

ACBK received small-scale funding in order to prepare an analysis of illegal wildlife trade patterns in Central Asia to strengthen cross-border information exchange in Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and China). The report is soon to be finished and submitted with considerable delay, unfortunately caused by unforeseen circumstances.

### **2020-2021**

Along with stakeholder organizations and scientists, ACBK took part in the development of the [“The Sustainable Use of Saiga Antelopes: Perspectives and Prospects”](#) report and coordinated [translation of the report](#) as well as the ‘Overview Report on Saiga Conservation Status and MOU Implementation’ document into Russian.

## **2.2 Enhancing stakeholder engagement:**

- **The Saiga Resource Centre (SRC). 2015- 2018.**

ACBK has actively contributed to the development and management of the [Saiga Resource Centre website](#). (MTIWP points 1.4, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4) until 2018. Then due to a lack of capacity within our organization and with a new person hired to the SCA to energise the SRC, our contribution decreased.

- **Saiga News:**

ACBK regularly provide information for the Saiga News and provide support with Kazakh language, when necessary.

## 2.5. Appendix I

Reports coordinated or produced by/with the participation of the ACBK team distributed via the SRC:

- **Mapping out a future for ungulate migrations. Kauffman M.J., ... Salemgareyev A., et al. (2021). Science.** (2021); <http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.abf0998>
- **Saigas on the brink: Multidisciplinary analysis of the factors influencing mass mortality events.** Richard A. Kock, Mukhit Orynbayev, Sarah Robinson, Steffen Zuther, Navinder J. Singh, Wendy Beauvais, Eric R. Morgan, Aslan Kerimbayev, Sergei Khomenko, Henny M. Martineau, Rashida Rystaeva, Zamira Omarova, Sara Wolfs, Florent Hawotte, Julien Radoux, E.J. Milner-Gulland (2020) <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/1/eaao2314.full.pdf>
- **The 2019 aerial survey reveals significant growth in all of Kazakhstan's saiga populations.** Steffen Zuther (2020) [https://www.saigaresourcecentre.com/sites/default/files/2020-02/sn\\_25\\_news\\_saiga-en-web\\_0.pdf#page=8](https://www.saigaresourcecentre.com/sites/default/files/2020-02/sn_25_news_saiga-en-web_0.pdf#page=8)
- **Mass Mortality Events: Publication of the Kazakh – British research team studies on saiga deaths.** Richard Kock, E.J. Milner-Gulland, Sarah Robinson, Steffen Zuther, Mukhit Orynbayev (2020) [https://www.saigaresourcecentre.com/sites/default/files/2018-08/news\\_saiga-en\\_issue\\_23\\_0.pdf#page=24](https://www.saigaresourcecentre.com/sites/default/files/2018-08/news_saiga-en_issue_23_0.pdf#page=24)
- **Conserving a small group of saigas within the Volga-Ural population in Atyrau province, Kazakhstan.** Vladimir Terentyev, Mark Pestov (2020) <https://www.saigaresourcecentre.com/node/368>