

**Consultative Meeting “Identifying solutions to human-wildlife conflict involving Saiga
Antelopes in Kazakhstan.”**

Part 2: Astana Meeting

Astana, Kazakhstan, 25 May – 27 May 2023

UNEP/CMS/SCMA/Outcome 2

**STRATEGY FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
SAIGA IN KAZAKHSTAN**

List of abbreviations

ACBK	–	Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan
CMS	–	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CITES	–	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP	–	Conference of the Parties
CVCS	–	Committee of Veterinary Control and Surveillance
FWC	–	Forestry and Wildlife Committee
IUCN	–	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MENR	–	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
MFA	–	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoA	–	Ministry of Agriculture
MTIWP	–	Medium-Term International Work Programme
NGO	–	Non-governmental organization
PA	–	Protected Area
Saiga MOU	–	CMS Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Programme

Introduction

Saiga Antelopes are migratory animals, which are currently distributed on the territories of Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan. In accordance with the taxonomic reference “Mammal Species of the World” (Wilson and Reeder, 2005) used by both the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) there are two species of Saiga. Most of *Saiga tatarica* is found in Kazakhstan with smaller populations occurring in the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan, whereas *Saiga borealis* only occurs in Mongolia. Hunting Saiga is currently prohibited throughout its range. The two species are listed on Appendix II of CMS and also on Appendix II of CITES with the following annotation: *A zero export quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes.*

Giving effect to the Appendix II listing of Saiga under CMS, the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga MOU) signed by all Saiga Range States is the only international instrument dedicated solely to the Saiga Antelope. The CMS Secretariat serves as the Secretariat to this agreement since its entry into force in 2006. The Medium-Term International Work Programme (MTIWP) is regularly updated and provides a guide to the implementation of conservation actions for the Saiga Antelope in the framework of this MOU, including sustainable use, when this is permitted by Range States. The long-term vision of the MOU is to restore Saiga populations to the point that sustainable use can be envisioned.

Due to a high Saiga population growth observed in recent years in Kazakhstan, reaching the greatest number ever recorded in its Ural population, there have been increasing concerns over conflicts between agricultural land users, local communities and Saiga. In 2022, the Government of Kazakhstan officially requested the assistance of the CMS Secretariat in developing an approach to address the human-wildlife conflict which would be in line with Kazakhstan’s obligations as a CMS and a CITES Party. In accordance with the mandate given by the MTIWP 2021-2025 and in response to the request of the Kazakh Government, the CMS Secretariat organized multi-stakeholder consultations titled “Identifying solutions to human-wildlife conflict involving Saiga Antelopes in Kazakhstan”, taking place online from 28 February - 1 March 2023 (Part I) and from 25-27 May 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan (Part II).

A group of seven international experts and one CITES Secretariat representative were invited jointly by the CMS Secretariat and the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Government of Kazakhstan to provide advice in addition to a range of national experts, local community representatives, government officials and other stakeholders. The aim of the consultations was to produce a strategy for the conservation and management of Saiga Antelopes in Kazakhstan. A draft strategy was prepared by the Frankfurt Zoological Society for the CMS Secretariat prior to Part II of the consultations, based on the following sources:

- Outcomes of Part I of the consultations ‘Identifying solutions to human-wildlife conflict involving Saiga Antelopes in Kazakhstan’
- CMS Report [‘The Sustainable use of Saiga Antelopes – perspectives and prospects’](#)
- Background document ‘Saiga conservation management in Kazakhstan’ (UNEP/CMS/SCM-PD/Doc.2)
- [MTIWP for 2021-2025 for the Saiga Antelope under the CMS Saiga MoU](#)

- [Standard Operating Procedures for detecting and reacting to incidents of health risks for and die-offs in Saiga antelopes in Kazakhstan](#)
- [CITES COP19 Saiga antelope \(Saiga spp.\) Decisions \(Decisions 19.213-19.217\)](#)
- Concept for the regulation of the Ural Saiga population by the Zhangir Khan Agro-technical University in Uralsk
- [IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence](#)

The draft was discussed and revised during Part II of the consultations. The resulting Strategy for the Conservation and Management of Saiga in Kazakhstan was endorsed by all meeting participants (the list of participants can be found in Annex I), with the exception of the representatives of the CITES and CMS Secretariats, who participated in the meeting as resource persons. The Strategy consists of a detailed logical framework, setting out the main activities required¹ for the conservation and sustainable management of Saiga populations over the next years, while considering the needs of all stakeholders, in particular local communities living in the Saiga range. It is intended to serve the Government authorities of Kazakhstan as a guiding tool.

The consultations were co-funded by the Government of Germany, UNDP Kazakhstan, the Government of Kazakhstan and the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan.

Current situation of Saiga Antelopes in Kazakhstan

In contrast to other countries like Russia and Mongolia, in Kazakhstan Saiga is not listed in the Red Book as an endangered species. Despite this, it is still strictly protected, as hunting Saiga has been illegal for more than 20 years and special ranger units patrol the ranges of Saiga populations in Kazakhstan to protect them from poaching. At the same time, special conservation measures have been in place for many years. Thanks to these comprehensive conservation efforts in Kazakhstan, it was possible to achieve a recovery of the Saiga populations in the country from an estimated 21,000 individuals in 2003 to 1,318,000 individuals in 2022, which is a great success. The world's largest population is currently found in Western Kazakhstan, where more than 800,000 Saiga were estimated in April 2022.

Nonetheless, threats to Saiga from poaching, illegal trade, disease outbreaks, habitat loss and resource competition with livestock persist. The loss of suitable habitat in combination with growing Saiga population size worsens the competition for resources with domestic animals. Therefore, complaints from farmers in the Saiga range, particularly from Western Kazakhstan about too many Saiga Antelopes destroying pastures and hay-making areas as well as crops have become more frequent in recent years. This causes economic losses for these farmers, and they experience problems feeding their own livestock.

There is an urgent need to resolve such conflict situations. Furthermore, the idea of sustainably using Saiga Antelopes for both non-extractive and extractive use has been discussed among various stakeholders, although the moratorium on hunting Saiga has been extended by the Government until the end of 2023.

¹ Indicators will be set through a separate process at the national level.

Details on the current situation of Saiga antelopes can be found in the background document for this meeting (UNEP/CMS/SCM-PD/Doc.2).

This strategy aims to identify goals for the conservation and management of Saiga in Kazakhstan and to describe ways of achieving them, including necessary resources and legislative changes.

Overall vision for the conservation and management of Saiga Antelopes in Kazakhstan

Saiga Antelopes belong to the natural and cultural heritage of Kazakhstan and are regarded as part of the country's natural wealth. Kazakhstan's outstanding significance for the conservation of the species is widely acknowledged. The purpose of the management of Saiga Antelopes in Kazakhstan is therefore to restore and maintain thriving Saiga populations, which have sufficient space to migrate freely across suitable habitats and are resilient against threats like diseases, climate change and land use change while being protected against poaching. Key habitats should be permanently protected through Protected Areas. Saiga should be able to fulfil their ecological functions in Kazakhstan's ecosystems. Conflicts with humans should be avoided or mitigated to enable Saigas to coexist with humans; local people are involved in Saiga conservation and population management, wherever possible. The existence of Saiga should provide net benefits to people through a system of sustainable use, including strictly controlled legal trade and ecological tourism without endangering the survival of the species.

Actions

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
Objective 1: The range and abundance of all Saiga populations are maintained at a level that ensures their sustainable regeneration and use					
1.1 The protection at the Saiga range prevents poachers from having a significant impact on Saiga populations.	1.1.1 Provide rangers with more modern field equipment and improve their social and material welfare.	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR), Forestry and Wildlife Committee (FWC)		Ongoing	State funding
	1.1.2 Develop and implement incentive mechanisms to encourage hunting areas to fulfil their protection function under the control of respective authorities.	MENR		Ongoing	Expert input, funding from hunting areas
1.2 Illegal trade in Saiga products is effectively intercepted.	1.2.1 Develop and distribute information materials about Saiga products to border guards, customs officers and police.	FWC, NGOs, scientific institutions, CITES		Regularly as part of existing trainings	Depending on needs (funds for printing)
	1.2.2 Provide training on identifying products from Saiga and other CITES species to border guards, customs and police officers.	FWC, scientific institutions, NGOs, CITES		Medium-term, continuous	Governmental training programmes
	1.2.3 Ensure reliable identification of Saiga derivatives in Kazakh laboratories.	Accredited laboratories, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, National accreditation center, Ministry of Agriculture		Medium-term	Funding for laboratories
	1.2.4 Encourage increasing the number of trained sniffer dogs for wildlife products, used by customs, border guards and police for detecting wildlife derivatives.	FWC, NGOs, interested agencies		Ongoing, as needed	Funding
	1.2.5 Strengthen cooperation between Range States and Consumer States to address illegal trade in Saiga derivatives (data exchange).	MENR, FWC, Ministry of Internal Affairs		Continuous short-term (data exchange)	Contact between Range States and Consumer States

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
1.3 Procedures for responding to disease outbreaks as well as to foreseeable or incipient adverse weather conditions exist.	1.3.1 Finalize and adopt interaction procedures for emergency response and protocols for veterinary procedures in case of mass mortality in Saiga.	FWC, CVCS, Ministry of Emergency Situations, local administration		Short-term	Changes in legislation
	1.3.2 Develop and adopt emergency response protocols for projected or onset adverse weather conditions.	Scientific institutions, NGOs, MENR		Short-term	
	1.3.3 Develop and apply special rules for handling and disposal of carcasses of wild animals.	CVCS, FWC, NGOs		Short-term	
1.4 People in Kazakhstan understand and support Saiga conservation and management.	1.4.1 Conduct information campaigns for people living inside and outside the Saiga range to communicate the key elements of the Saiga conservation strategy to the public.	MENR, FWC, Oblast branches of FWC, NGOs (national and local), Protected Areas, Ministry of Information and Social Development		Ongoing	Funding depending on scale
	1.4.2 Develop and implement Saiga PR campaign for the general public.	FWC, NGOs		Short-term, continuous	Funding
	1.4.3 Develop school materials about Saiga and its ecology and significance.	Ministry of Education, NGOs		Medium-term	Funding
	1.4.4 Cooperate with international journalists.	MENR, FWC, NGOs, Protected Areas		Continuous	Contact with journalists
	1.4.5 Conduct sociological research to improve understanding of the interactions between people and Saigas and to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented campaigns.	NGOs, scientific institutions		Start now and conduct regularly	Expert advice and support, funding for research
Objective 2: Conflicts between local people and Saiga are managed for peaceful coexistence.					
2.1 Conflicts between humans and Saiga are avoided, where possible, or mitigated.	2.1.1 Conduct research on the historical and current Saiga distribution and potential further Saiga habitats.	Interested organisations		Short-term	None (in large parts already done)

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
	2.1.2 Conduct landscape-scale planning for each Saiga population involving local communities to identify priority zones for both Saiga and land-use, taking into account outcomes from 2.1.1.	FWC and its oblast branches, involving all relevant stakeholders		Medium-term	Funding, support for facilitation and planning (e.g., NGOs)
	2.1.3 Avoid construction of linear infrastructure across Saiga habitat or implement effective mitigation measures in case of expected impacts on Saiga.	FWC, FWC oblast branches, NGOs, Local authorities, Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development		Ongoing	Regular monitoring, advocacy work, legislative changes
	2.1.4 Test various kinds of deterrents and scientifically assess their effectiveness and economic viability.	Land users, Research Institutes, NGOs, in cooperation with FWC and Protected Areas		Short-term	Depending on deterrents and scale
	2.1.5 If possible, use recommended deterrents from 2.1.4 to keep Saiga away from agricultural lands.	Land users		Short-term, ongoing	Depending on deterrents and scale
	2.1.6 Provide financial support to land users for using deterrents against Saiga intrusions in agricultural fields.	Ministry of Agriculture, MENR		Short-term, continuous	Funding, depending on possible deterrents and needs
	2.1.7 Provide sufficient water sources to Saiga in their priority habitat including protected areas.	Committee of Water Resources, FWC, Protected Areas, NGOs, local authorities		Short-term	Assessment of likely locations and impact
2.2 The types and dimensions of conflicts between humans and Saiga are understood.	2.2.1 Conduct a survey among local land users in the Saiga range to understand and review their problems with Saiga, their attitudes to the species and impacts on local livelihoods, using participatory approaches.	Social scientists, NGOs (national and international), FWC		Short-term	Funding, training, expert support and facilitation
	2.2.2 Initiate and support research projects on the assessment and current level of impacts of Saiga Antelopes on land-use (cropping, haymaking, pastures).	MENR, FWC, Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs, Scientific organisations		Medium-term	Funding (national and/or international)

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
	2.2.3 Develop recommendations for assessing damage to agricultural lands caused by Saiga.	Scientists from 2.2.2, Ministry of Agriculture		Medium-term	
2.3 Damage caused by Saiga to local land users is transparently assessed and the resulting losses are compensated.	2.3.1 Explore and establish a mechanism for paying local land users a conservation reward for hosting Saiga on their land as a short-term measure. Consider rolling out this measure in the long-term, where insurance cover is unlikely (e.g. consistent damage in calving areas).	Ministry for Emergency Situations, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance		Short-term	Funding, expert input, learning from experience elsewhere
	2.3.2 Establish a standard, continuing mechanism for the assessment of damage to crops, pastures and hay-making areas, including the involvement of independent experts to confirm occurring damage levels.	Ministry of Agriculture, FWC		Medium-term	Adoption of respective orders
	2.3.3 Design participatory methodologies to resolve identified conflicts with local communities and implement them.	FWC, NGOs, Scientific institutes		Short-term for design, medium-term	Funding for travel and costs for meetings with local communities, training in participatory methods
	2.3.4 Consider and ensure the inclusion of losses or damage due to the impacts of wildlife into agricultural insurance schemes.	Ministry of Agriculture, FWC		Long-term	Changes to insurance system
	2.3.5 Assess the next steps for rolling out any agreed payment scheme based on the outcomes of 2.3.1 and 2.3.4.	FWC, Ministry of Agriculture		Long-term	Changes to insurance system
Objective 3: Sustainable use of Saiga generates incentives for conservation of the species and ecosystems and provides benefits for people in Kazakhstan.					
3.1 Increased opportunities for non-extractive use of Saiga.	3.1.1 Assess the local potential and feasibility of ecotourism in the Saiga range.	Ministry of Culture and Sport, NGOs		Short-term	Funding
	3.1.2 Develop and implement state funding programmes to support the creation of wildlife	FWC, Ministry of Culture and Sport, international NGOs, investors to support		Medium-term	Funding (depending on needs)

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
	tourism offers in areas with the highest potential (based on 3.1.1).				
	3.1.3 Develop and implement PR campaign for tourism in Saiga areas.	Ministry of Culture and Sport, NGOs		Medium-term	Funding
3.2 Saiga populations generate benefits through a system of sustainable use.	3.2.1 Adapt legislation to allow Saiga hunting using appropriate methods.	FWC		Short-term	Legislative changes
	3.2.2 Establish Public Saiga Management Councils for each Saiga population, involving representatives of all stakeholders, and integrate local community views into Saiga management decisions.	FWC, FWC oblast branches, local communities, NGO, scientific organisations, local authorities, hunting associations		Short-term	Legislative changes, meetings (funding)
	3.2.3 Only allow commercial harvesting of individuals of a population that are above the scientifically determined minimum population size for that population.	FWC, Public Saiga Management Councils		Ongoing	Development and adoption of hunting rules, study trip to Sweden
	3.2.4 The following parameters should be considered when developing a justification for harvesting: ratio of young to females, absence of mass mortalities, level of impact of poachers on the population, weather conditions and population dynamics.	FWC, Public Saiga Management Councils		Ongoing	Development and adoption of hunting rules
	3.2.5 Base hunting quotas on the pre-harvest population size using a scientifically approved population model taking into account the management goals and in its absence a quota of not more than 10%.	FWC, Public Saiga Management Councils		Ongoing	Development and adoption of hunting rules
	3.2.6 Determine the harvest composition based on the management objective for the specific population, but the ratio of sexually mature males to females should be at least 1 to 5 after harvesting.	FWC, Public Saiga Management Councils		Ongoing	Development and adoption of hunting rules

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
	3.2.7 Prepare equipment and infrastructure for large-scale harvest and processing of harvested Saiga (e.g., slaughterhouses and transport containers, not only for meat, but also skins, horns, and other purposes) and select and train professional hunters.	FWC, FWC oblast branches, MENR, local authorities, Ministry of Agriculture		Short-term	Funding and training, significant upfront investment, the amount of which is difficult to assess
	3.2.8 Commence the harvest of Saiga when all preparations 3.2.1-3.2.7 are finished.			Short term	
3.3 Hunting areas in the Saiga range receive income from hunting Saiga.	3.3.1 Give hunting quotas for a certain Saiga population to hunting areas.	FWC, Public Saiga Management Councils		Short-term	Legislative changes
	3.3.2 Develop trophy hunting tourism as a source of income for hunting areas in the Saiga range.	FWC, FWC oblast branches		Ongoing	Legislative changes, funding for marketing?
	3.3.3 Encourage the creation of a mechanism, allowing a fair distribution of Saiga use rights among hunting areas for each Saiga population range.	FWC, FWC oblast branches, Kansonar, Tabigat Association		Ongoing	
3.4 Local people in the Saiga range receive net benefits from the presence of Saiga.	3.4.1 Ensure that local communities are involved in the potential development of Saiga tourism offers based on 3.1.1.	FWC, Ministry of Culture and Sport		Short-term	Meetings/workshops
	3.4.2 Offer advice and technical assistance for the development of tourism businesses to local communities and support the promotion of the tourism product.	Ministry of Culture and Sport		Short-term	Funding
	3.4.3 Support the involvement of local communities in Saiga management and benefit sharing in all Saiga ranges (3.4.4).	FWC, FWC oblast branches, NGOs		Short-term	Meetings
	3.4.4 Agree on a distribution mechanism of benefits from Saiga use among local communities in the range of each Saiga population.	Local communities		Short-term	Legislative changes

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
	3.4.5 In the case of large-scale, commercial Saiga use, consider the provision of meat at social prices to the local population, including transferring it to a stabilization stock.	FWC, local authorities, Aqjaiyq social entrepreneurs corporation		Short-term	Legislative changes
	3.4.6 Provide a certain number of hunting permits to local people at reduced prices.	FWC		Medium-term	Legislative changes
	3.4.7 Promote and support the management of hunting areas by non-profit community-based organisations along with hunting areas operated by commercial enterprises, including by amending the rules for the allocation of hunting grounds and providing support and advice to local non-profit public organizations on how to participate in competitions for the allocation of hunting grounds.	FWC, FWC oblast branches, NGOs		Ongoing	
	3.4.8 Develop and apply a fair distribution mechanism for monetary revenues from large-scale Saiga use for wildlife management areas and local communities as well as invest in necessary conservation, research and monitoring.	FWC, FWC oblast branches		Ongoing	Legislative changes
	3.4.9 Create a "Saiga development fund" for each population, collecting a certain percentage of revenues from the sale of derivatives of Saiga and other sources that are not prohibited by the legislation of Kazakhstan, as a possible funding source for social and community development projects in the Saiga range, compensation for damage from Saiga for land users and for emergency support.	FWC		Medium-term	Salary of necessary staff
Objective 4: Saiga products are available on the domestic and international market.					
4.1 A transparent stockpile management system for Saiga products is established, including marking of horn.	4.1.1 Request support from the CITES Secretariat on the establishment of a stockpile management system.	FWC, MENR, CITES, CMS		Short-term	Contact to CITES Secretariat
	4.1.2 Consult with other Range States on the process of the development of a stockpile	FWC, MENR		Short-term	Contact to other Range States

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
	management system to align approaches internationally.				
	4.1.3 Develop and implement a system for marking Saiga horn, preventing illegal trade in Saiga derivatives.	FWC, responsible agency for certification and standardization		Short-term	Potentially funding for necessary equipment, legislative changes
	4.1.4 Identify a state agency/company responsible for the purchase, storage and sale of Saiga horn.	MENR		Short-term	
	4.1.5 Develop and establish a centralized database of Saiga derivatives with unique identifiers and indication of origin.	FWC		Short-term	Funding for database development
4.2 Saiga horn from natural mortalities can be delivered to collection points and become part of the official legal stockpiles.	4.2.1 Develop a methodology to prove the origin of collected horn, for instance including a photo database and spot checks through state rangers	FWC, MENR		Short-term	Legislative changes
	4.2.2 Legalize the collection of horn from natural mortality, if evidence for this mortality can be provided.	FWC		Short-term	Legislative changes
	4.2.3 Ensure that revenues derived from horn collected by local people benefits local communities.	FWC, local authorities		Short-term	Legislative changes
4.3 Confiscated Saiga horn is transferred into official stockpiles.	4.3.1 Change the legislation to allow the transfer of confiscated horn into legal stockpiles.	FWC, MENR, Ministry of Internal Affairs		Short-term	Legislative changes
	4.3.2 Develop handling procedures for confiscated horn to be transferred to legal stockpiles and conduct training of law enforcement officers.	FWC, MENR, Ministry of Internal Affairs		Short-term	Development of procedures and training, funding
4.4 Saiga products are available on the domestic market.	4.4.1 Remove the moratorium to allow trade in legally obtained Saiga products and derivatives.	FWC, Ministry of Agriculture, Committee for Veterinary Control and Surveillance (CVCS)		Short-term	Legislative changes

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
	4.4.2 Establish a registration system for traders/manufacturers of Saiga products and derivatives.	Ministry of Trade and Integration		Medium	Funding
	4.4.3 Build on international experience to design an efficient market and trade control system.	FWC, Ministry of Trade and Integration		Short-term	Funding, technical advice
	4.4.4 Elaborate and adapt the veterinary-sanitary examination procedure for Saiga meat and incorporate it into legislation.	Committee for Veterinary Control and Surveillance of the Ministry of Agriculture		Short-term	Legislative changes
	4.4.5 Train personnel needed for processing hunted Saiga.	Interested stakeholders		Medium-term, continuous	Budget for trainings
4.5 Saiga products and derivatives are traded internationally to increase income generated through sustainable Saiga use.	4.5.1 Change legislation on international trade to fulfil requirements under CITES, where necessary.	FWC, MENR, Ministry of Trade and Integration, MIA, in consultation with CITES Secretariat		Short-term	Legislative changes
	4.5.2 Consult with all other Range States on plans to reopen sustainable hunting of Saiga and to resume international trade in Saiga antelope products to enable Range States governments to prepare pro-active communications and other actions.	FWC, MENR, Ministry of Trade and Integration, CMS, MFA		Short-term	Contact with Range States, CMS Secretariat
	4.5.3 Draft proposal to CITES COP to remove the annotation of the zero-export quota for Saiga products of wild origin traded for commercial purposes.	MENR, FWC, MFA, Institute of Zoology		Short-term	Contact to relevant stakeholders
	4.5.4 Ensure support among CITES Parties for the approval of the proposal from Kazakhstan at CITES COP.	MENR, FWC, Ministry of foreign affairs, international NGOs, IUCN		Short-term	Contact CITES Parties
	4.5.5 Initiate international trade in Saiga products if commercial trade in wild specimen is allowed in accordance with CITES regulations and decisions.	FWC, MENR, Institute of Zoology, Ministry of Trade and Integration		Medium-term	

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
Objective 5: Saiga population size, population structure, reproduction, habitats, threats, and management interventions are properly monitored					
5.1 The methodology for Saiga counts is refined to provide reliable results for large population sizes.	5.1.1 Test and assess potential survey methods on their suitability for counting Saiga.	NGOs, Institute of Zoology		Medium-term	Potentially funding for equipment, satellite imagery
	5.1.2 Propose and adopt revisions to the existing Saiga census methodology.	NGOs, Institute of Zoology, FWC		Medium-term	Legislative changes
	5.1.3 Apply new census methodology for Saiga populations.	FWC, NGOs, Institute of Zoology		Medium-term	Potentially funding for equipment, satellite imagery
5.2 An improved Saiga population model is developed, suitable for use in Saiga management.	5.2.1 Initiate and support research to improve existing Saiga population models.	International research institutes, Institute of Zoology, NGOs		Medium-term	Funding for scientists
	5.2.2 Make the Saiga population model usable for Saiga management.	International research institutes, Institute of Zoology, NGOs, FWC		Medium-term	Funds for software development needed
5.3 The carrying capacity and water sources for all population ranges in Kazakhstan are established.	5.3.1 Initiate and support research, such as habitat monitoring with remote sensing to determine the carrying capacity and water sources of all population ranges in Kazakhstan.	International research institutes, Institute of Zoology, Institute of Geography, NGOs		Short-term for initial survey, medium-term	Funding for scientists
	5.3.2 Use the carrying capacity assessment for taking management decisions.	FWC, Public Saiga Management Councils		Medium-term	
5.4 Systematic Saiga ground monitoring is conducted regularly to provide information on demographic parameters, threats as well as interrelationships with ecosystems.	5.4.1 Develop an extended Saiga monitoring approach, providing data on birth rates, mortality, sex ratio, movements, and disease and interrelationships with ecosystems.	FWC, NGOs, Institute of Zoology, International research institutes		Short-term	Consultations with scientists and NGOs
	5.4.2 Provide sufficient funding for Saiga ground monitoring and for Saiga satellite tracking.	MENR, FWC, NGOs, scientific institutions		Continuous, short-term	Depending on 5.4.1
	5.4.3 Create digital maps of Saiga mass aggregations and migration routes and integrate them into existing open access GIS.	MENR, local authorities		Medium-term	

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
5.5 Information on management interventions is recorded and centrally collected.	5.5.1 Establish a monitoring programme to enable ongoing evaluations of whether the Saiga conservation and management strategy has local support, yields local benefits and reduces conflict.	FWC, scientists		Continuous	Funds for regular monitoring
	5.5.2 Establish a central database about Saiga conservation and use at the FWC.	FWC		Short-term	Possibly funding for database development
	5.5.3 Establish a central database for trade, purchase, storage and sale of Saiga products.	Responsible authority (FWC)		Short-term	Possibly funding for database development
	5.5.4 Make databases accessible for use by the Public Saiga Management Councils and state agencies.	FWC		Short-term	Trainings
5.6 Threats to Saiga are understood to inform management decisions.	5.6.1 Integrate a module on poaching cases and illegal trade in the central database at FWC (5.5.2).	FWC		short-term	Possibly funding for database development
	5.6.2 Systematically feed data into the central database.	FWC		Continuous	Trainings
	5.6.3 Conduct regular surveys among local people using appropriate methods to calculate levels of poaching.	NGOs, scientific institutions including local ones		Continuous	Funding
	5.6.4 Use the database and results of the surveys in 5.6.3 to obtain an estimate for illegal harvest of Saiga.	FWC		Continuous	Staff time
	5.6.5 Regularly monitor plans for infrastructure developments in the Saiga range and suggest adjustments in case of expected negative impacts on Saiga.	FWC, NGOs		Continuous	Staff time
	5.6.6 Conduct ecological and veterinary monitoring and research on Saiga diseases.	CVCS, veterinary laboratories, scientific institutes		Continuous	Funding
	5.6.7. Monitor weather and climate in Saiga ranges and predict adverse weather conditions and climatic changes.	Kazhydromet scientific institutions		Continuous	Funding

Result	Action	Stakeholders	Indicator	Timeline	Means of implementation
Objective 6: Saiga management is regularly reviewed and adapted in accordance with monitoring results.					
6.1 The conservation and management of Saiga Antelopes is transparent to the wider public.	6.1.1 Make the Strategy for the Conservation and Management of Saiga in Kazakhstan publicly available.	FWC, MENR		Short-term	Local media, radio, TV
	6.1.2 Allow for comments on the strategy and address them as needed.	FWC, MENR		Short-term	Public consultation
6.2 The Saiga conservation and management approach is reviewed and amended regularly.	6.2.1 Public Saiga Management Councils meet regularly as needed, but at least once in six months to review the current condition of the Saiga population and its management and social conservation benefits for local people, discuss threats, and take decisions on its future management.	FWC, council members		Continuous	Travel funds
	6.2.2 Make information about changes to Saiga management available to the general public.	FWC, Public Saiga Management Councils		Continuous	Local media, Saiga Management Councils

Annex I List of Participants

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