

Convention on Migratory Species

The Fourth Meeting of Signatories to the Saiga MOU

28-29 September 2021, Russian Federation, online meeting



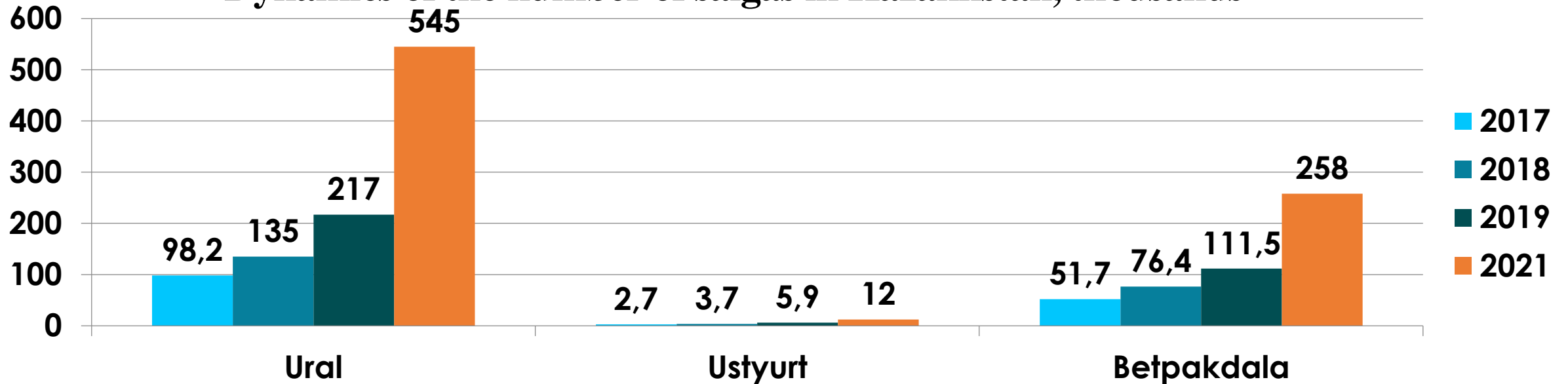
Daniyar Turgambayev
Deputy Chairman of the Forestry and Wildlife
Committee of the MEGNR of Kazakhstan



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Dynamics of the number of saigas in Kazakhstan, thousands



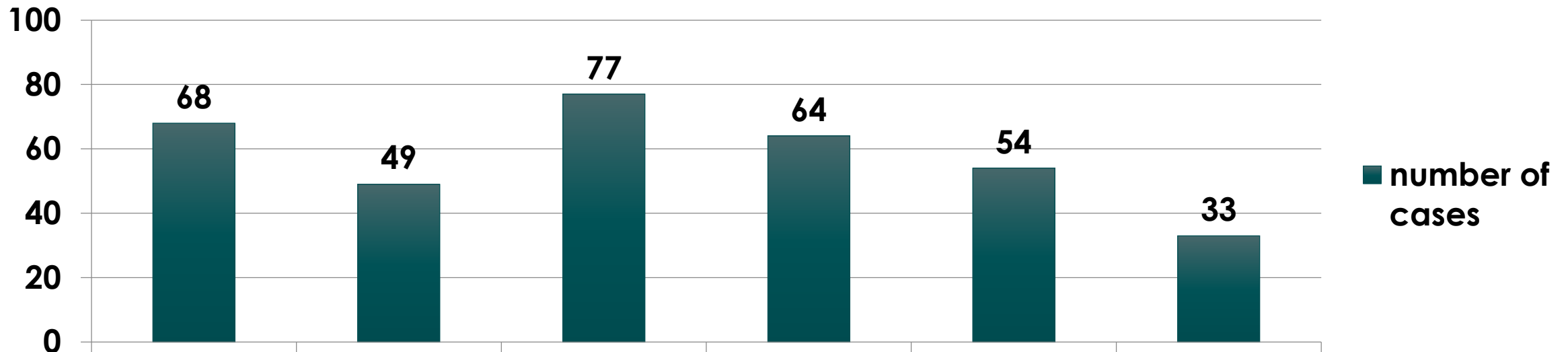
Year	Population number and its growth in %							
	Ural		Ustyurt		Betpakdala		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2017	98 200	+39,9	2 700	+42,1	51 700	+42,8	152 600	+40,9
2018	135 000	+37,5	3 700	+37,0	76 400	+47,8	215 100	+41,0
2019	217 000	+60,7	5 900	+59,5	111 500	+45,9	334 400	+55,5
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	545 000	+151,2	12 000	+103,4	285 000	+160,1	842 000	+153,3

Main threats for saiga in Kazakhstan: Poaching

Poaching can be conditionally divided into two types:

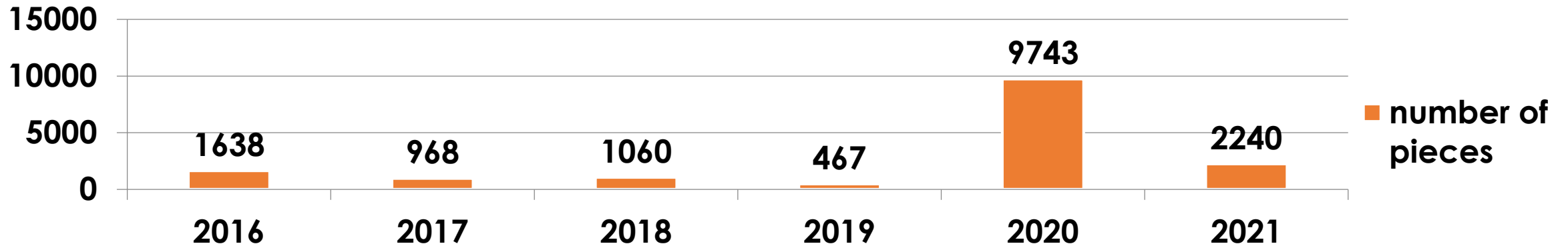
- for saiga horns to further sell them in a black market;
- for meat to fulfill economic needs.

Number of detentions from 2016 to 2021

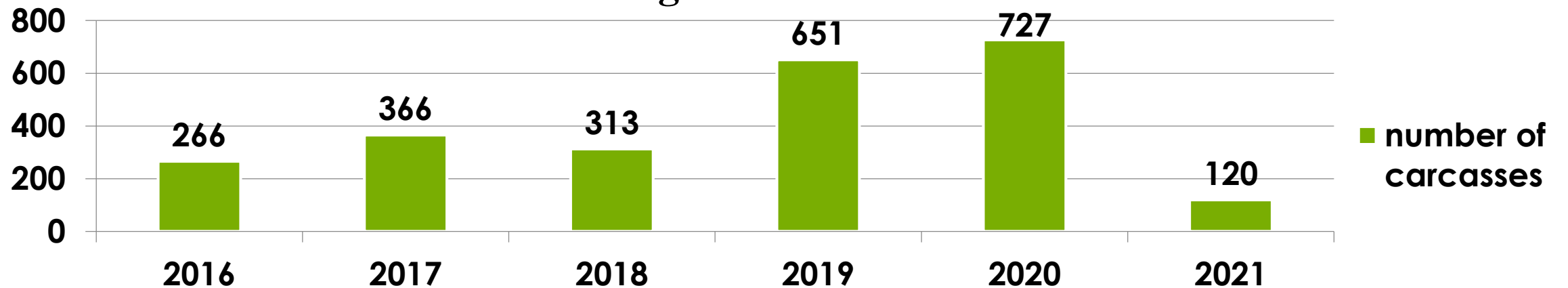


There is a tendency towards a decrease in the number of violations

Number of seized saiga horns from 2016 to 2021



Number of seized saiga carcasses from 2016 to 2021



With a general decrease in the number of detentions, the number of seized carcasses and horns keeps increasing. This might indicate a more thorough preparation of poachers due to high protection of saiga.



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Main threats for saiga in Kazakhstan: competition for resources

- Competition with livestock for pastures and water; higher frequency of crop damage. Based on archive data, the area for agriculture use in the West Kazakhstan region **has tripled over the past 15 years, whereas the number of saigas increased for almost 30 times - from 15,000 to 545,000.**
- **At the same time, historical maximum of the Ural population have never exceeded 295,000 individuals.**
- An annual growth of the Ural population is approximately 40%. Therefore, we can assume that in 2022 the number will reach around 700,000 individuals.





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Main threats for saiga in Kazakhstan: diseases

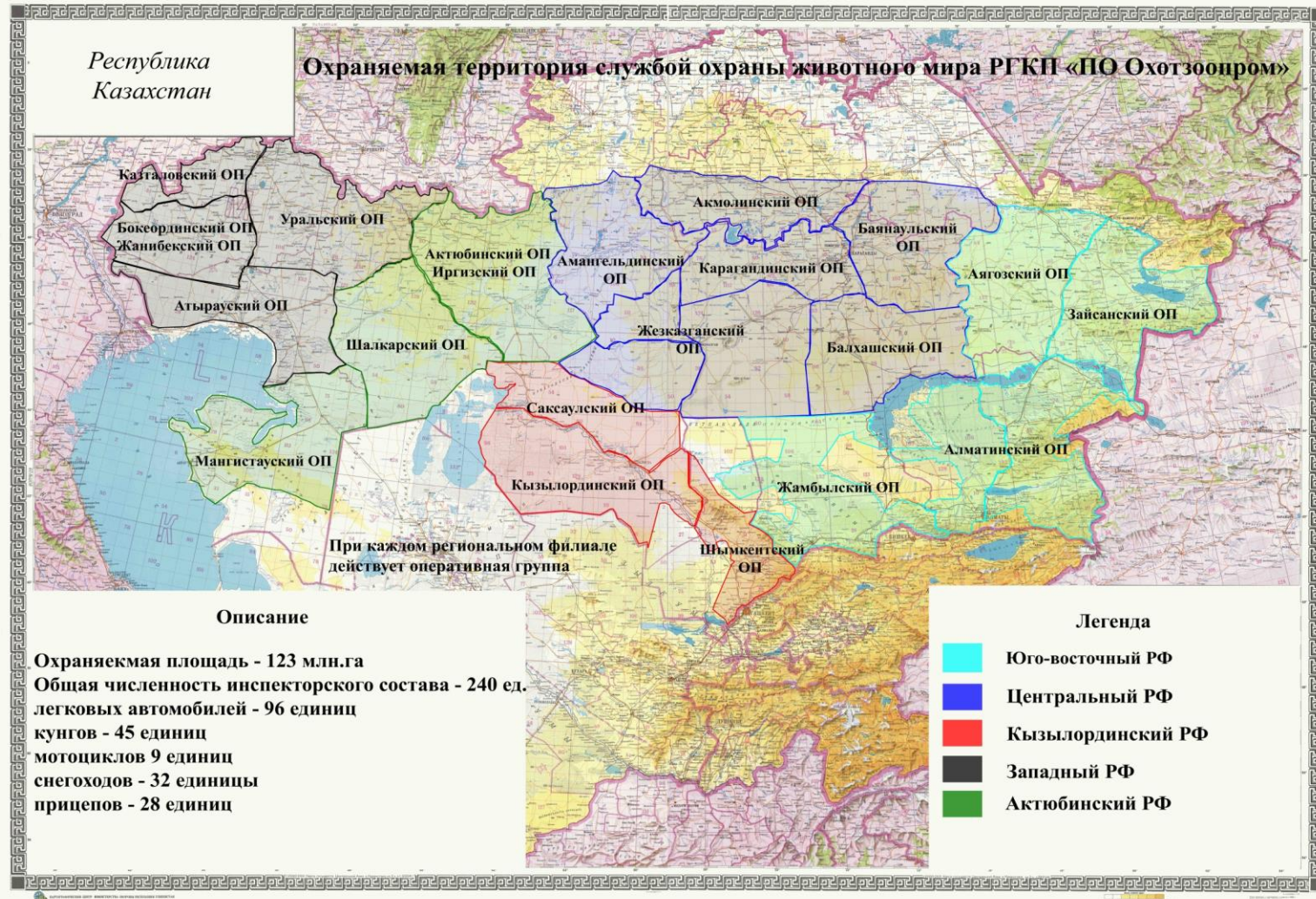
A high density of the population increases the probability of mass die-offs and causes transmission of diseases between saigas and livestock. Diseases can wipe out a significant part of the population.

While analysing the dynamics in saiga numbers since 1980, it was noted:

- there were 11 cases of mass mortality approximately once every 3.6 years;**
- on average 34% of a population or 18% of the total saigas died.**

It is well-known fact that population density determines the dynamics of the population. Thus, the existing competition for land **might lead to a slowdown in population growth in the future.** According to the information from the Institute of Zoology of Kazakhstan, the optimal number of the Ural population corresponding to forage reserves varies between 165,000 and 231,000 individuals, whereas **the current number is twice more and is 545,000.**

Examples of saiga conservation activities from 2019 to 2021



Saiga is protected by:

- Special service at Okhotzooprom – **240 inspectors permanently protecting saiga**
- Regional branches of the FWC MEGNR of Kazakhstan – **158 specialists**
- Administrative Police Committee of the MIA of Kazakhstan (nature protection police) – **286 officers**
- Reserve rangers – **151 inspectors**
- Ranger services of hunting areas – **1224 rangers**



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We are actively digitalising our patrols

15 cars of inspectors are equipped with all-round video cameras

Video surveillance eswell



Network equipment for encrypted communication channel



Redundant power equipment



Iridium Satellite Phone



Motorola Radio Station



Stavtrack offline GPS-tracker



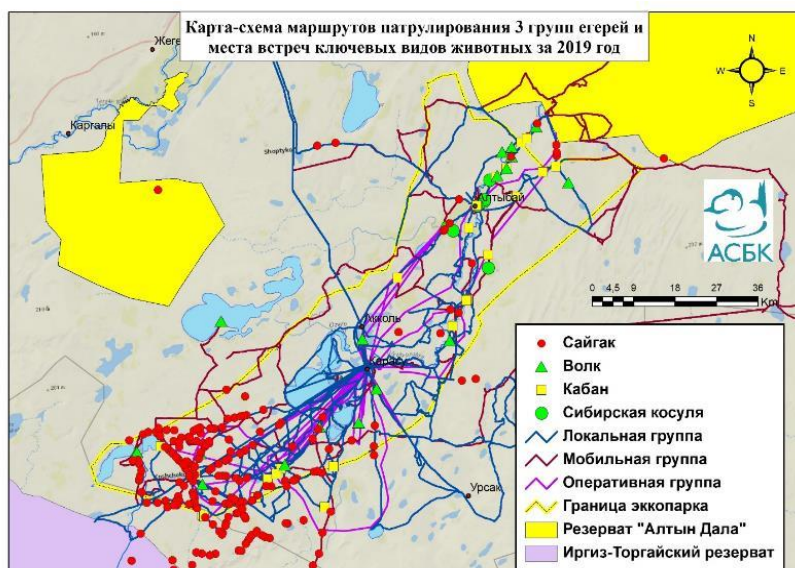
Hikvision transportable video cameras



UAVs are used

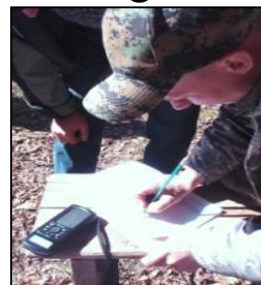


Spatial monitoring system and preparation of analytical reports on the protection of wildlife are currently are tested by the inspectors of the Almaty, Akmola and Aktobe branches.

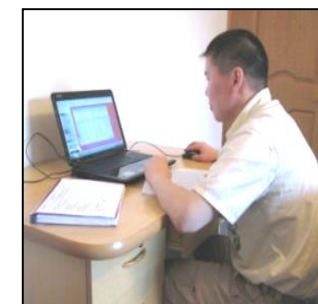


Группа	Количество рейдов	Кол-во часов активного рейда (Все)	Расстояние (км)	Количество дней(Все)	Итого дней согласно приказу
Локальная группа	21	162	3356	207	101
Мобильная группа	45	274	3646	55	82
Оперативная группа	22	67	1037	23	46
Итого	88	503	8039	285	229

Data gathering



Data storage

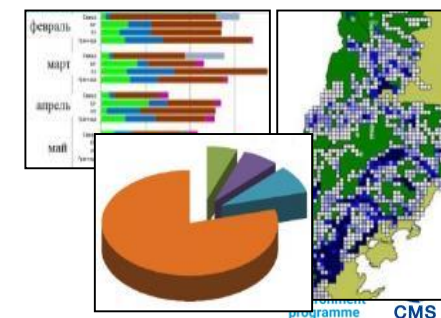


Adaptive management

Feedbacks (recommendations)



Analysis, assessment and reports





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Examples of saiga conservation activities from 2019 to 2021

A moratorium on use of saiga, its parts and derivatives, except for scientific purposes, was prolonged **until 2023** in Kazakhstan.

The amount of fine for a saiga poaching has been increased to 500 (male) and 350 (female, underyearlings) monthly calculated indices, which is respectively **\$3500** and **\$2500** per individual.

Amendments to the laws have been made providing **a criminal liability for the violence** against the state nature protection inspector and/or rangers with **imprisonment for up to 12 years**.





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Examples of saiga conservation activities from 2019 to 2021

In 2019, amendments on toughening penalties for illegal hunting were made to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Illegal handling of saiga is highlighted as a separate provision of the law.

Article 337 "Illegal hunting" has been amended to toughen the sanction, that is, criminal offenses are changed to a crime, and a new part has been introduced - 6th part **(by a criminal group, or with causing especially large damage)** with the sanction of **imprisonment up to 10 years**.

Article 339 "Illegal treatment of rare and endangered species of animals and plants" introduced a new part 1-1, which provides for punishment for illegal acquisition, storage, sale, import, export, shipment, transportation or destruction of saiga, its parts or derivatives, including saiga horns; restriction or **imprisonment from 3 to 5 years, with confiscation of property is provided**.

Capacity-building of inspectors

- In 2019-2020, within the framework of agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, 180 inspectors took advanced training courses at four academies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. With the OSCE partnership, with the participation of the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, trainings on combating poaching are carried out on an ongoing basis.





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Plans for the future (5 priority actions for the next 5 years)

- studying the possibilities of sustainable use of saiga without the threat of population degradation
- development of a mathematical model of populations, determination of the optimal number of saiga
- exploring options for involving local people in the conservation and use of saigas
- development, testing and implementation of a system for tagging and controlling the movement of derivatives based on international experience
- digitalisation
- consultations with CITES and MoU parties on international trade issues



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National Coordinator of the Saiga MoU

The Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan (FWC MEGNR) is a government authority carrying out implementation, control and supervisory functions in the field of forestry, protection, reproduction and use of wildlife and protected areas.

MoU focal point:

Askar Abdrakhmanov – Chief Expert, FWC, MEGNR

CITES focal point:

Sergey Bolozh – Chief Expert, FWC, MEGNR





**Thank you for
attention!**