



CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE

Saiga Antelopes © E. Poloiniski

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE CMS SECRETARIAT!

WE WISH YOU ALL THE VERY BEST FOR 2017!



Snow Leopard © Panthera

CHANGES

Polina Orlinskiy completed her assignment at CMS as a temporary consultant for CAMI in November 2016. Until the appointment of the permanent CAMI officer in March 2017, please contact Yelizaveta (Lizza) Protas (yelizaveta.protas@cms.int, +49 228 815 2419) for all issues relating to CAMI.

New partnership with China

CMS Executive Secretary, Bradnee Chambers, visited China, a CAMI Range State and an important player in Central Asia. On 29 October 2016 Mr. Chambers attended the “Ecological One Belt One Road and CMS Workshop” in Beijing, during which the representative of Chinese State Forestry Administration agreed to enhance cooperation with CMS. Immediately following that visit, CMS and the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) signed a Partnership Agreement to protect migratory animals and their habitats, making CBCGDF the first formal Chinese NGO partner of CMS.

The CBCGDF will launch an initiative to promote and support CMS and raise its profile in China and beyond. CBCGDF Secretary General, Zhou Jinfeng highlighted the need for cooperation to enhance the transboundary conservation of CAMI flagship species such as the Saiga antelope and the Snow leopard. This is an important step towards increasing cooperation with China and enhancing its role in implementing CMS.

Save the Date: 12th CMS Conference of the Parties

The Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP12) will be held in Manila, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Philippines from 23 to 28 October 2017.

Reminder for CMS Parties: Deadline to submit national reports

It is an obligation for each CMS Party to submit its National Report no later than 180 days in advance of the Conference of the Parties (COP12). This means that all national reports have to be submitted by **24 April 2017** using an online form. CMS National Focal Points have just received an additional [notification](#) with a [link](#) where to register or log in for online reporting. Please note that National Focal Points should register first, before appointing others to assist with the reporting. If you need any support, please contact Associate Capacity-Building Officer Ms. Hanah Al-Samaraie, hanah.alsamaraie@cms.int

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Cooperation with IUCN ECARO

The IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (IUCN ECARO) was established in 2015 to support the IUCN constituency and implement the IUCN Programme in East Europe, North and Central Asia. IUCN ECARO aims to extend its work in Central Asia to improve governance of natural resources and to build capacity, with the help and in support of partners such as CMS.

Based in Belgrade, Serbia, it mainly works on good governance, the long-term protection of biodiversity, and sustainable use of natural resources. As a membership and knowledge-based organization with strong convening power, IUCN ECARO is striving to:

- Ensure proper implementation of global conservation policy;
- Disseminate and apply IUCN Knowledge Products;
- Introduce innovative approaches to effective biodiversity conservation and natural resource management;
- Support institutional strengthening and capacity-building and exercise convening power across and between the

Species Focal Point (SFP) assigned for each of the 15 CAMI priority species

In accordance with the CAMI Programme of Work, a Species Focal Point (SFP) should be identified for each of the 15 CAMI species.

The CMS Secretariat has identified these Focal Points, who are experts on the conservation of the migratory species concerned and their habitats and are able to provide relevant information on matters related to these species. The experts are either independent scientists or work in governmental or non-governmental institutions and have a proven track record of scientific research, field work experience and a relevant network in the range country (or countries) of the respective species. SFPs will be closely involved in the matters relevant for the conservation of the species under CAMI, such as workshop planning, project brainstorming and public outreach activities. The terms of reference for SFPs have been drafted and discussed by the SFPs. For some species two experts are responsible, in which case they cooperate between each other to provide a coordinated input to CMS. A list of CAMI SFPs and the terms of reference can be found [here](#). Please inform the Secretariat before contacting the SFPs. Work is under way to establish a communication platform for SFPs.



Skadar Lake © IUCN/Boris Erg

regions, sectors and countries.

The CMS Secretariat looks forward to further strengthening partnership and synergies with IUCN ECARO in Central Asia and to work closely together on all matters that pertain to both. Further information including the IUCN ECARO Annual report 2015 can be found at www.iucn.org/ecaro.



Mongolian Gazelle © Rich Reading



Przewalski's Horses © Grunewald

CAMI IN PRESS

Slide show web article based on interviews with Polina Orlinskiy (CMS), Steffen Zuther (Frankfurt Zoological Society and Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan, ACBK) and Petera Kaczensky (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, NINA)

[Deutsche Welle Living Planet: Migratory animals under threat in the 'Serengeti of the north'](#)

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Meeting and Events

5 July 2016- Expert Discussion on Conserving Snow Leopards

Government representatives and experts met in Berlin on 5 July 2016 to ensure the long-term survival of the Snow Leopard. Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU), a German nature conservation NGO, convened the meeting. CMS was represented by Polina Orlinkiy (acting CAMI officer) and Yelizaveta Protas (acting Terrestrial Species Coordinator).

The UNEP/CMS Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) as well as the head of the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyzstan and NABU discussed the latest progress and challenges to Snow Leopard conservation.

The Snow Leopard is listed on Appendix I of CMS, designated for concerted actions, and is a priority species in the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI). The goal of the associated programme of work (POW), adopted in 2014 by CMS Parties, is to improve the conservation status of large migratory mammals, including the Snow Leopard and its prey species the Argali, by strengthening trans-boundary cooperation.

Within GSLEP the Range States have developed national protection programs for the species (NSLEPs) and identified 23 landscapes of particular importance for Snow Leopards. However, to date only one of the 23 landscapes identified by GSLEP is trans-boundary. CMS could support the efforts to safeguard the future of the species by facilitating more trans-



Snow Leopard © Martin Forster

boundary cooperation, including identifying further trans-boundary landscapes. A total of eight trans-boundary landscapes, aligned with those designated by Range States under GSLEP, were identified in 2014 as crucial habitats for Snow leopards and their prey in the Central Asian region in an international workshop on “Aspects of Trans-Boundary Snow Leopard Conservation in Central Asia” supported by CMS and organized Flora and Fauna International (FFI).

The outcomes of this meeting involving specialists from five Central Asian countries and international experts should be used to benefit the conservation of the species. More on this can be found [here](#).



Wild Camel © John Hare

for nine CAMI species. They established new partnerships, developed eight project proposals, and suggested solutions for organizational and political issues. Follow-up activities to strengthen communication between experts and between the CMS Secretariat and CAMI Range States and other stakeholders were outlined. Several project concepts to understand and reduce barriers to migration, benefiting such species as the Mongolian Gazelles, Wild Camels, Khulan, Saiga Antelopes were selected to receive CMS small-scale funding.

22-26 August 2016 - International Expert workshop “Setting Priorities for the Implementation of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)”

Thirty experts active in Central Asia convened at the International Academy of Nature Conservation on Vilm Island in Germany to discuss how to advance their common goal of conserving Central Asian mammals and their habitats. CMS organized the workshop in cooperation with German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the NGO, NABU, with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), and the Government of Switzerland. During the course of three productive days, experts discussed key priorities for conservation action

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2-3 November 2016 – International Round Table on Trophy Hunting, Tajikistan

The International Round Table “Sustainable Use and Conservation of Wildlife in Tajikistan” was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from 2 to 3 November 2016. It was jointly organized by the Committee of Environmental Protection (CEP) under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan together with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). More than 90 national and international experts participated in this event.

As a result of this meeting, all parties adopted the final resolution of the round table: “To further improve regulation and management of sustainable use and conservation of wildlife, as well as socio-economic development of the Republic of Tajikistan.”

This resolution contains measures such as setting hunting quotas based on improved scientific methods and allocating these quotas in a transparent way, ensuring wildlife population monitoring and data exchange with the help of local and international scientists, and developing university programmes and training courses for professionals in wildlife management and conservation.

Additionally, participants agreed to strengthen international commitment of Tajikistan government under the CITES and CMS conventions, as well as other relevant agreements.

CMS presented those international Instruments (such as the Argali Action Plan) adopted by CMS Parties under the



Argali Sheep © Askar Davletbakov

convention for ensuring sustainable use and sustainability of trophy hunting. The presentation was delivered on behalf of CMS by Natalya Yakusheva.

To be able to serve as a conservation tool, Trophy Hunting has to be managed according to international norms, such as those established in the CMS Argali Single Species Action Plan, relevant instruments of CITES, and the IUCN guidelines for trophy hunting (Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting as a Tool for Creating Conservation Incentives).

The results of this meeting are available here:

<http://naturalresources-centralasia.org/index.php?id=142>

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5 September, 2016 - Side event at IUCN World Conservation Congress “Empowering Local Communities to Combat Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade”

This event organized by CMS together with its session partners IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (IUCN SULI) and UNDP, showcased the role communities can play in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade (IWT). The organizers aimed to facilitate an exchange of experiences and lessons learned between projects in Africa and Central Asia. The discussion focused around the principles of involving local communities in conservation and in the fight against poaching and illegal

© David Braun

trade. Representatives of WCS and GIZ presented their experience in Central Asia. The event contributed towards further developing and communicating the “Rules of Engagement”, an outcome of the workshop “Beyond enforcement: the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in combating illegal wildlife trade in West and Central Africa” ([more on this workshop here](#)). CMS legal instruments, such as the Argali Single Species Action Plan, Saiga Medium-Term International Work Programme 2016-2020 and CAMI POW address the issues raised in Rules of Engagement and suggest concrete measures to facilitate empowerment of local communities. For the CMS stance on this issue, please read the OpEd by our Executive Secretary [here](#).

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29 September, 2016 - Side Event at CITES COP 17 “Sustainable Use for Conservation – How CMS Can Provide a Complementary Tool to CITES”

At the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which took place from 24 September to 5 October in Johannesburg, CMS hosted a side event on Argali sheep. The event titled “Sustainable Use for Conservation – How CMS Can Provide a Complementary Tool to CITES” focused on aspects of sustainable use of the Argali sheep with trophy hunting as a potential conservation measure. Through this event CMS communicated international norms, that can make trophy hunting a tool for conservation and started a civil dialogue on what is normally a controversial topic. As a conservation-focused Secretariat, CMS works with different opinions to promote sustainable use of the Argali sheep. Perspectives on trophy hunting were shared between exporting and importing CITES Parties and NGOs, through presentations by the Tajik and US delegations and NGO partner, Panthera, as well as subsequent discussions. As illegal trophy hunting is a problem, international cooperation is key to proper documentation. Communication between exporting and importing countries and CITES is [critical](#).



Argali Sheep © Askar Davletbakov

CMS-Supported Projects for the Conservation of the Saiga Antelope and to Build Capacity to Reduce Barriers to Migration

CMS awarded small grants to two projects with generous support from the German Government in 2016.

The Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA) was awarded a grant to finalize the sampling protocol to guide local veterinarians when taking samples in case of mass die-off events in the future. In addition, the SCA awarded three projects in the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan to raise awareness on Saiga Antelopes, their cultural value and to study social attitudes towards Saiga conservation problems.

The second project addresses capacity-building on

implementing CMS and is being carried out by the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) in Kazakhstan and partners in other Central Asian republics. The aim of the project is to assist the government in informing relevant agencies and explaining how to implement the document adopted by CMS Parties at CMS COP 11 in 2014, the Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia. The guidelines will be explained in the regional language (Russian), and educational materials (such as document summaries and PowerPoint presentations) will be made available for partner organizations in Central Asian countries for them to implement capacity-building activities in their countries.

The Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)

The Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) and its associated Programme of Work were adopted by CMS Parties at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) in Quito, Ecuador in 2014. With an initiative to strengthen the conservation of Central Asian migratory mammals, CMS aims to provide a framework to coordinate conservation activities in the region and to coherently address major threats to migratory species.

CMS at a glance

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, is a treaty dedicated to the conservation of wildlife beyond national borders worldwide. It has more than 124 Member States.

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