

**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

Distr: General

CMS/SA-1/9
25 August 2006

Original: English

FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING
CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE
USE OF THE SAIGA ANTELOPE (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*)
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 25-26 September 2006
Agenda Item 9.0

NEXT MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES

(Note prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The Signatories are invited to consider when their next meeting should take place. Signatories may wish to consider whether it would be desirable to continue to hold stand-alone meetings for this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), or to explore holding shorter more compact meetings in the margins of other events, taking into account the experiences gained from the present meeting and the need to ensure adequate representation.
2. Until the Eighth Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted a new budget in November 2005, the regular meetings of MoUs concluded under CMS auspices had been financed in-part from dedicated MoU meeting budget lines from the Convention's regular budget. Host governments have typically provided additional in-kind and financial support for these meetings.
3. The situation has changed with the elimination of dedicated MoU meeting budget lines from the CMS triennial budget 2006-2008. Instead, a modest annual sum (approximately 65,000 euros per year) has been allocated to the CMS Secretariat to support agreement development and servicing, though this may be supplemented by the understanding reached during the COP that voluntary contributions would be provided to help support the Convention's implementation in lieu of larger assessed contributions on the Parties.
4. The MoU meeting's core budget was originally estimated at approximately US\$45,000. The Forestry and Hunting Committee in Kazakhstan, the European Commission (via a grant to CITES), CMS, the German Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) have all provided very generous and substantial financial contributions to make the Saiga MoU meeting and technical workshop possible.
5. As has been done for other CMS MoU meetings, it was decided to convene a technical workshop prior to the MoU meeting to solicit advice and recommendations from interested organisations and individual experts on some of the MoU meeting issues. Significant savings resulted from twinning the technical workshop and the MoU meeting together with an already planned meeting in Almaty on the INTAS (European Community) project "Reproductive ecology of the Critically Endangered saiga antelope" coordinated by Imperial College London. Many of the individual Saiga experts participating in the INTAS meeting were already in Almaty at that project's expense. CMS only needed provide support to extend their stay.

6. If a future technical workshop were to include the broadest array of expertise it is estimated that an additional US\$13,000 would be needed for flights and accommodation. This would bring the total estimated cost of the next meeting of the signatories to approximately US\$58,000.

Action requested:

The Signatories are invited to consider:

- Expressing appreciation to the Forestry and Hunting Committee for hosting the MoU meeting and to the financial co-sponsors of the MoU meeting and the technical workshop.
- The desirability of continuing to hold future stand-alone MoU meetings, as well as the technical workshop.
- When the next meeting of the Signatories should take place.
- Offering to host the next MoU meeting and technical workshop and/or pledging financial or in-kind support.