

**MEDIUM TERM INTERNATIONAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE
SAIGA ANTELOPE (2011-2015)**

(To support the implementation of Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.) and Action Plan)

INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY THE CMS SECRETARIAT

1. Pursuant to paragraph 2, Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga* spp.) are to implement the provisions of the Action Plan as a basis for conserving all populations of saiga.
2. The First Meeting of the MoU Signatories (Almaty, September 2006) endorsed a Medium Term International Work Programme (2007-2011) to support the implementation of the MoU and Action Plan in order to focus the work of the Range States, the saiga research and conservation community and the donor community on the areas of highest conservation concern that required urgent intervention.
3. The Second Meeting of the MoU Signatories (Ulaanbaatar, September 2010) reviewed the implementation of the Work Programme since the First meeting, and endorsed the present revised version of the Plan covering the period 2011-2015.
4. The work programme prioritises many of the activities of the Action Plan. It is intended to focus limited international, national and other financial resources and capacity for the most immediate conservation impact. This work programme is envisioned to form the basis for targeted fundraising nationally and internationally and should provide a guiding context for donor decisions. CITES Decision 14.96 in particular requests donor CITES Parties, aid agencies, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and businesses using and producing saiga products to assist the Range States and consumer countries in any way possible with the conservation of the species.
5. Though at present it is not considered to be a saiga Range State for the purposes of the MoU, the work programme may be applicable to China. China has been recognised as one of the most important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives. As a result, China is mentioned specifically in some of the work programme's action points. For example, it has been referenced in some of the action points on sustainable use and trade. But, even where it has not been specifically referenced, some of the work programme's general action points may be applicable and could be considered by China in its own national circumstances.
6. The activities presented in the work programme have been prioritised by urgency and timescale depending on the threats targeted and other conservation needs. The MTWP is not intended to be prescriptive or mutually exclusive.
7. The term of the work programme is five years. As with all action planning documents, regular review is an integral component, and activities can be updated periodically by the MoU's Meeting of the Signatories as the need arises to reflect new information or needs.

**MEDIUM TERM INTERNATIONAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE SAIGA ANTELOPE (2011-2015)
(TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION
MEASURES FOR THE SAIGA ANTELOPE (SAIGA SPP.) AND ACTION PLAN)**

Long-term vision: To restore saiga populations to the point that sustainable use can again be envisioned.

Overall goal: That saiga populations show an increasing trend or their decline is halted over the next five years.

Achievement of this goal is to be assessed through a time-series of population estimates made using appropriate methods, accompanied by an estimate of the associated uncertainty.

| | Measures to be taken | Urgency ¹ | Timescale ² |
|------------|--|----------------------|------------------------|
| | <i>Range-wide measures</i> | | |
| 1.0 | Implementation | | |
| 1.1 | Develop national Saiga Conservation Action Plans and integrate into NBSAPs | 3 | A |
| 1.2 | Encourage all potential partner and cooperating organisations to support the MoU and Action Plan by contributing to the implementation of the medium-term international work programme | 1 | A |
| 1.3 | Coordinate conservation efforts and promote cooperation between all stakeholders in range states and ensure sustainable funding | 1 | B |
| 1.4 | Encourage the saiga research and conservation community to regularly exchange project information and progress reports through the e-bulletin <i>Saiga News</i> and a future on-line reporting facility and e-library | 2 | A |
| 1.5 | Consider establishing an international coordination mechanism for the MoU to support implementation | 2 | A |
| 1.6 | Designate national MoU focal points responsible for liaison with counterparts in other Range States and with co-operating organisations, and improve exchange of information and technical expertise on saiga conservation | 3 | B |
| 1.7 | Encourage the Range States, Mongolia and China, to conclude and support bilateral cooperative agreements on matters of mutual interest to support the MoU's implementation | 2 | B |
| 1.8 | Develop and agree emergency protocol for action in the case of a disease outbreak or mass mortality episode | 1 | A |
| 1.9 | Resolve the issue of genetic distinctiveness of different populations | 2 | A |
| | | | |
| 2.0 | Anti-poaching | | |
| 2.1 | Develop national anti-poaching strategies in order to maximise effectiveness of patrol deployment | 1 | A |
| 2.2 | Fund anti-poaching units for the protection of all saiga populations in all Range States | 1 | A |

¹ Urgency: 1 - Urgent (crucial for preventing population extirpation). 2 - Important (necessary for stabilisation of numbers). 3 - Useful (will contribute to population restoration).

² Timescale: A - Immediate (1-2 years). B - Medium-term (5 years).

| | Measures to be taken | Urgency¹ | Timescale² |
|------------|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2.3 | Strengthen legal systems where appropriate to ensure effective prosecution of offenders | 2 | B |
| 2.4 | Provide relevant training for local law enforcement officers where appropriate | 2 | B |
| | | | |
| 3.0 | Sustainable Use and Trade | | |
| 3.1 | All signatories are encouraged to report seizures or confiscations via Ecomessage and encourage trading partners to do this. Range States are also encouraged to designate enforcement focal points. | 2 | A |
| 3.2 | Encourage all Range States to join CITES | 3 | B |
| 3.3 | All CITES member Range States are encouraged to achieve a Category 1 rating for their CITES-related legislation (in accordance with CITES procedures) | 2 | A |
| 3.4 | Encourage countries trading in saiga products to establish internal market controls for saiga parts e.g., registration of stockpiles, labelling of parts and products and registration of manufacturers and traders, learning from experiences in China | 2 | A |
| 3.5 | Encourage Range States and consumer States to comply with CITES decisions and recommendations. | 2 | A |
| 3.6 | Seek opportunities for training and cross-border cooperation in CITES implementation, identification of saiga products and techniques for countering illegal trade | 2 | A |
| 3.7 | Where feasible, include saiga conservation and trade issues into higher political agendas in order to raise the awareness of policy makers and ensure higher level political support for the implementation of the Action Plan and medium-term international work programme | 2 | A |
| 3.8 | Encourage research aiming to reduce the quantity of saiga horn used in traditional Asian medicines, including market surveys, and sharing of information with saiga Range States and consumer States | 2 | B |
| 3.9 | Encourage cooperation between in-situ conservation and the Asian medicine industry for promotion of saiga conservation and sustainable use | 2 | B |
| | | | |
| 4.0 | Human Factors | | |
| 4.1 | Expand current incentive and alternative livelihood projects and develop new programmes in all appropriate parts of the saiga's range | 1 | A |
| 4.2 | Monitor attitudes to saiga conservation activities and evidence of poaching and trade using local-level social research including participatory community monitoring | 2 | A |
| 4.3 | Strengthen the involvement of different stakeholders in saiga conservation and encourage local involvement in, and support for, saiga protection | 2 | A |
| 4.4 | Promote sustainable rangeland use to enable the cohabitation of people and saiga | 2 | A |
| 4.5 | Ensure national focal points are responsible for integration of human factors and public awareness into policy implementation | 2 | B |
| 4.6 | Assess the possibilities for saiga-based photo-tourism and pilot this approach | 2 | B |
| | | | |
| 5.0 | Awareness | | |
| 5.1 | Continue an objective high-profile mass-media campaign at regional, national and local levels in both Range States and consumer countries, addressing saiga conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and explaining the relevant challenges, with a particular focus on local media outlets | 2 | A |

| | Measures to be taken | Urgency¹ | Timescale² |
|------------|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5.2 | Continue to widely distribute information and educational materials on saiga biology and conservation aimed at local people and decision-makers | 2 | B |
| 5.3 | Support and regularly update existing web-sites about saiga conservation, restoration and sustainable use, including the creation and maintenance of official national saiga focal point websites | 2 | B |
| 5.4 | Expand the distribution and profile of <i>Saiga News</i> , both in hard copy at a local level and through other media, nationally and internationally | 2 | B |
| 6.0 | Mapping distribution | | |
| 6.1 | Collate information on saiga habitat and range use, present and past; identify key features, including habitat types used and the effects of anthropogenic disturbance | 2 | B |
| 6.2 | Carry out research on saiga movement using appropriate technology (including satellite tracking) | 1 | A |
| 6.3 | Develop a system for exchange of information recorded on GIS | 2 | B |
| 6.4 | Analyse range use based on this information, and make conservation recommendations accordingly | 1 | A |
| 6.5 | Analyse scenarios of likely future change in saiga distribution, abundance, demography and threats in the light of climate change, infrastructure and human factors, and develop a plan for conservation interventions accordingly | 1 | B |
| 7.0 | Protected areas | | |
| 7.1 | Expand and enhance national protected area networks to benefit saiga, with particular emphasis on protecting key areas (birthing and rutting) and migratory corridors, based on the recommendations from 6.5 | 1 | B |
| 7.2 | Carry out a feasibility study on establishment of trans-frontier protected areas where appropriate | 2 | B |
| 8.0 | Monitoring | | |
| 8.1 | Carry out annual population counts | 1 | B |
| 8.2 | Carry out monitoring of saiga populations, their demographic parameters, health and their wider environment | 2 | B |
| 8.3 | Review different monitoring techniques, and adopt 'best practice' methodologies for reliable counting of saiga populations. Identify appropriate sample sizes, timing, and frequency of counts to provide reliable baseline population data. Provide training in standard monitoring techniques as appropriate | 1 | A |
| 8.4 | Obtain funding to ensure a time series of at least 5 years using new techniques for population estimation | 2 | A |
| 8.5 | Encourage use of comparable techniques and reporting standards in all Range States for comparison and joint analysis | 2 | B |
| 8.6 | Work with local people to develop a participatory monitoring programme for saigas | 2 | B |
| 8.7 | Carry out regular monitoring of sex/age ratio in saiga populations to determine trends in sex ratio, survival, reproductive success and age structure | 2 | B |
| 8.8 | Carry out epidemiological and other research on saiga diseases to inform mitigation, control and action in the event of a disease outbreak or mass mortality episode | 1 | B |

| | Measures to be taken | Urgency¹ | Timescale² |
|-------------|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8.9 | Develop and disseminate protocols and processes for sampling individual saigas | 3 | A |
| 9.0 | Captive breeding | | |
| 9.1 | Establish captive breeding and reintroduction facilities in Mongolia | 1 | A |
| 9.2 | Determine role of captive breeding for either genetic preservation or reintroduction and set guidelines including approved facilities and reintroductions | 2 | A |
| 9.3 | Establish captive breeding facilities in other parts of the saiga range where appropriate and support existing facilities in Russia and China | 2 | B |
| 9.4 | Maintain a central database or studbook for all captive populations and create structures and leadership for the database | 2 | A |
| 9.5 | Promote the exchange of expertise in captive breeding | 2 | A |
| | | | |
| | <i>Population-specific measures</i> | | |
| 10.0 | North-West Pre-Caspian region population | | |
| 10.1 | Develop and submit for endorsement a long-term programme and action plan to restore and protect the population, including securing task-oriented funding for approved actions, including support from international funds | 1 | A |
| 10.2 | Conduct regular assessments of the saiga population at the optimal time for counts and ensuring comparability with similar assessments of other populations | 1 | A |
| 10.3 | Implement activities to restore and protect saiga by improving the work of existing breeding centres, protected areas and other institutions | 1 | A |
| 10.4 | Provide financial support for initiatives to expand public participation in restoration and protection of saiga | 1 | A |
| 10.5 | Improve the institutional capacity and effectiveness of the saiga management authorities and strengthen their links with other administrative units of the Russian Federation within the population's range | 2 | A |
| | | | |
| 11.0 | Ural population | | |
| 11.1 | Strengthen anti-poaching activities | 1 | A |
| 11.2 | Strengthen public awareness and engagement activities | 1 | A |
| 11.3 | Build up an information base about saiga distribution, population structure and threats, to act as a foundation for conservation planning and taking into account the trans-boundary nature of the population | 1 | A |
| 11.4 | Strengthen cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan for management of this trans-boundary population | 2 | B |
| | | | |
| 12.0 | Ustiurt population | | |
| 12.1 | Strengthen anti-poaching activity in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan | 1 | A |
| 12.2 | Obtain baseline information about the seasonal distribution and numbers of saiga. For example - what proportion of the saiga population over-winters in Uzbekistan and in Turkmenistan in a given year, and what determines this? How many saiga stay in Uzbekistan year-round, and where? | 1 | A |

| | Measures to be taken | Urgency¹ | Timescale² |
|-------------|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12.3 | Institute public engagement activities, including alternative livelihoods, population-wide, building on the small-scale pilots already in place | 2 | A |
| 12.4 | Ensure that existing protected areas have funding to allow a minimum acceptable level of functioning and assess the need for further protected areas, including a feasibility study on establishment of a transfrontier reserve on the Ustiurt Plateau encompassing all three Range States | 2 | A |
| 12.5 | Implement bilateral and/or trilateral cooperation agreements between the three countries to ensure coordinated action | 1 | A |
| 12.6 | Carry out public awareness surveys among the local people | 2 | A |
| 12.7 | Carry out work with the law enforcement authorities (border guards, police) working on prohibition and prevention of poaching | 1 | A |
| 12.8 | Engage with infrastructural developers (including oil and gas companies and road/rail developers) to contribute to a programme for saiga and habitat conservation | 2 | B |
| | | | |
| 13.0 | Betpak-dala population | | |
| 13.1 | Ensure that the ongoing current protected area planning process is relevant to the saiga's current and particularly its future needs, including obtaining information about past and current distribution and movement behaviour and factors affecting this | 1 | A |
| 13.2 | Strengthen anti-poaching efforts, targeting areas where saiga are still present at particular times of year. Ensure that existing anti-poaching initiatives are funded as necessary and ensure that they operate effectively | 1 | A |
| 13.3 | Institute public engagement activities, including livelihood enhancement, awareness-raising and involvement in saiga conservation, population-wide, building on the activities already under way | 2 | A |
| 13.4 | Ensure that transport and infrastructural development is carried out with due regard to saiga conservation | 2 | B |
| | | | |
| 14.0 | Mongolia population | | |
| 14.1 | Strengthen protection, including adequate funding for anti-poaching patrols, improve protected area management and identify potential grazing-free areas | 1 | A |
| 14.2 | Establish a captive breeding facility to support reintroduction in historical range and to ensure the genetic diversity of the populations preserved | 1 | A |
| 14.3 | Build local engagement in saiga conservation through alternative livelihood enhancement and public awareness activities | 1 | A |
| 14.4 | Gather information on past estimates of saiga populations, analyse methods, and obtain a population estimate for the saiga population, using agreed methods at a suitable time of year, that can form the basis for ongoing monitoring of population status | 2 | A |
| 14.5 | Obtain information about the seasonal distribution, migration and numbers of saiga | 1 | B |
| 14.6 | Initiate research efforts on saiga-livestock interactions, including grazing overlap, competition, and disease transmission | 2 | B |