



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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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 7.0

REVIEW OF MOU AND ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

(Note prepared by the Secretariat)

1. Every meeting of the Signatories is to review the conservation status of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) and the implementation of the Action Plan, taking into consideration national reports submitted by the Signatories of the Range States, the Secretariat's Overview Report, other sources of available information as well as any recommendation or scientific advice relating to the Saiga Antelope that may have been made by the CMS Conference of the Parties or the Scientific Council (CMS Articles III (6), VII (5) (e) and VIII (5) (a)).
2. Pursuant to MoU paragraph 6, and with the assistance of the Antelope Specialist Group (ASG) and the European Sustainable Use Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the Secretariat has prepared an overview report compiled on the basis of information available. The Overview Report is provided as document CMS/SA-1/5/Add.1.
3. The Secretariat has transmitted the Overview Report to all Signatories, the cooperating organisations that have signed the MoU and to all other non-signatory Range States. In addition, the Secretariat has also communicated all national reports which have been received from Range States that have not yet signed the MoU.
4. Agenda item 7.0 will be considered in two parts during the meeting: (1) conservation status of the Saiga Antelope and (2) status of implementation of the MoU and Action Plan.

Conservation Status of the Saiga Antelope

5. The Overview Report provides a brief summary of the Saiga Antelope's conservation status within the agreement area.
6. "Conservation status" is not defined in the MoU. But it is defined in the Convention as "the sum of influences acting on the migratory species that may affect its long-term distribution and abundance" (CMS Article I (1)(b)).
7. The meeting is invited to consider the Overview Report's treatment of the Saiga Antelope's conservation status and provide comments or any other additional information.

8. The meeting may also wish to briefly consider, and provide comments on the Overview Report's description of the conservation status of *Saiga tatarica mongolica*, which is not a subject of the MoU, but is a related sub-species found only in Mongolia.

Action requested:

The Signatories, and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Take note of that section of the Secretariat's Overview Report addressing the conservation status of *Saiga tatarica tatarica* and provide additional information not yet reflected, as well as guidance on how the report could be improved if necessary.
- Provide additional information on *Saiga tatarica mongolica*'s conservation status.

Status of Implementation of the MoU and Action Plan

9. The MoU and Action Plan provide the general substantive framework for action within the agreement area. The MoU's substantive provisions are found in paragraph 1 (provide effective protection for the Saiga Antelope and conserve, restore and sustainably use habitats and ecosystems important for its long-term survival), paragraph 2 (implement the Action Plan subject to the availability of resources), and paragraph 4 (facilitate exchange of scientific, technical and legal information to coordinate conservation measures; co-operate with other states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations).

10. The Action Plan has three objectives. Each Signatory should have reported in its national report on the status of implementing those actions associated with the objectives that are most relevant to its national circumstances. A draft national report format (CMS/SA-1/6/Add.1) had been provided to facilitate this and will be discussed under agenda item 8.1.

11. The Secretariat's Overview Report summarizes the information received and available from the national reports. This information was supplemented by information generally available to the ASG and the Secretariat, through their networks, as well as project-related information compiled from a survey undertaken and summarised in document CMS/SA-1/Inf/6. The Overview Report attempts to create a general picture of the status of the MoU and Action Plan's implementation and, where possible, their effectiveness.

12. In order to maximise the very limited time available during the meeting it is proposed that in lieu of presenting a full summary of their national report and activities, the four *Saiga tatarica tatarica* Range States, Mongolia and China will be invited to make brief national reports (no more than 10 minutes each) to share: (a) additional information on their Saiga-related activities in support of the MoU and Action Plan's implementation, (b) any problems/gaps in their implementation, and possible measures to overcome them, and (c) their priority Saiga-related activities for the next 5-10 years.

13. The meeting may also wish to consider how to best measure progress achieved under the MoU and Action Plan. Is the present format of the Overview Report appropriate? Is the summary of Saiga-related Project Activities (CMS/SA-1/Inf/6) appropriate and useful? Do these need to be improved?

14. Finally, one additional question the meeting may wish to consider is whether additional tools are necessary to implement the MoU and Action Plan in order to achieve desired conservation and management outcomes, keeping in mind a draft medium term international work programme to support implementation of the Action Plan will be discussed under agenda item 8.3.

Action requested:

The Signatories, and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Share additional information on the status of the MoU and Action Plan's implementation.
- Identify implementation gaps by country and the possible means to fill the gaps.
- Identify country-level priorities for the next 5-10 years.
- Indicate how to best measure progress achieved under the MoU and Action Plan and, in particular, whether the Overview Report and the Summary of Saiga-related Project Activities are useful and appropriate and/or need to be improved.
- Provide guidance on whether additional tools are necessary to implement the MoU and Action Plan in order to achieve desired conservation and management outcomes for the Saiga Antelope.