



CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE

Mongolian gazelles crossing a highway © ganbayar/hureelen

CAMI IN PRESS

Central Asian News Agency interviewed the then CAMI Coordinator Natalya Yakusheva about CMS and CAMI implementation in the region, and particularly about new policy tools to mitigate the negative impact of infrastructure on mammals' migration and the measures that should be taken to prevent mass saiga die-offs.

[Text in Russian here.](#)

[Text in English here.](#)



Dead Mongolian gazelle © Lkhagvasuren Badamjav

Third Meeting of the Signatories to Saiga MOU: Setting the Roadmap for the Years to Come

The Third Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga MOU) and Technical Workshop for saiga antelope experts took place from 26 to 29 October 2015 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan with representatives of governments, UN agencies, NGOs and academia in attendance. The Third Meeting of Signatories set the roadmap for international conservation action for the critically endangered saiga antelope to 2020, presented the current conservation status and discussed a new National Reporting format for MOU Signatories.

The press release issued after the meeting can be found [here](#). The documents adopted by the meeting can be found [here](#) under the heading "Meeting Report"

Video interview: Kirk Olsson on barriers to migration [here](#).

Wildlife-Friendly Infrastructure: Workshop in Mongolia

The workshop "Implementing wildlife-friendly measures in infrastructure planning and design in Mongolia" was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 24 to 28 August 2015. It brought together representatives of governments, industry, development banks, UN agencies, NGOs and scientists to find solutions to ensure that steppe animals are able to cross roads, railways and fences. The new "Ulaanbaatar Action Plan on Wildlife-friendly Infrastructure" summarizes the recommendations of the meeting for planning of roads and railroads in Mongolia.

More information, including the Ulaanbaatar Action Plan in English and Mongolian, can be found [here](#).

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Regional Practices on Sustainable Use of Wildlife Discussed in Ashgabat

The international conference “Regional practices on sustainable use in hunting territories and protection of wildlife” took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan 1-3 September 2015. Natalya Yakusheva represented CMS at this meeting. Researchers and practitioners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as a number of international experts, examined principles for sustainable wildlife management and the practical results of their implementation in Central Asia. The conference concluded the three-year EU FLERMONECA project implemented by GIZ.

More information can be found [here](#).



Argali sheep © Askar Davletbakov

Thousands of Mongolian gazelles die, unable to cross man-made barriers

This was announced by the leading scientist of the Institute of Biology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Lkhagvasuren Badamjav at the meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council of the CMS, taking place on April 18-22 in Bonn, Germany. More than 5,300 Mongolian gazelles died in winter 2016, unable to cross the Trans-Mongolian Railway in Mongolia. The mass die off was the result of a combination of factors. Drought followed by heavy snow and extreme temperatures of -40 degrees Celsius as well as the barrier in the form of the Trans-Mongolian Railway, fenced with barbed wire on both sides triggered this mass mortality. The CMS Scientific



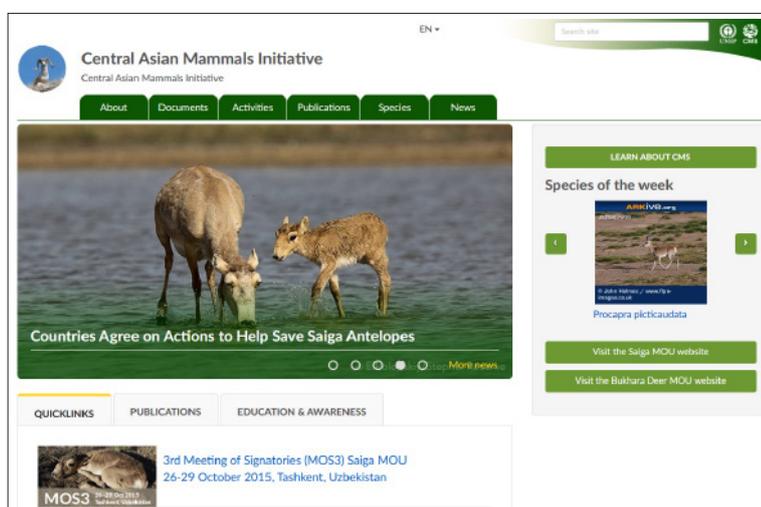
Mass mortality of Mongolian gazelles © Lkhagvasuren Badamjav

Council expressed its concerns that similar situations will be increasingly frequent as a consequence of climate change, and that such heavy tolls might threaten the viability of Mongolian Gazelle populations.

More information can be found [here](#).

New Webpage for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative Launched

A new web site for the CAMI, containing more comprehensive and detailed information has been launched by CMS. In comparison to the previous CMS CAMI website, the new one will contain more images and general information on Central Asian mammals, serving as an additional tool for awareness-raising in cyber space. In addition, it presents an information platform for professionals who can access all the relevant meeting documents, related publications as well as view planned and concluded meetings on handy separate tabs. The options on including Russian translation in the most convenient way for the reader are being explored at the moment. Follow the [link](#) for the current version of the new website. Your comments are welcome!



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POLINA ORLINSKIY, THE NEW CAMI FOCAL POINT AT CMS

Ms. Polina Orlinskiy is the new CAMI focal point until the permanent CAMI officer is recruited at CMS in late 2016. Polina Orlinskiy is an environmental scientist by training, having received her B.Sc. Degree at the University of Guelph (Canada) and M.Sc. in Biology at the University of Bremen in Germany. Before coming to CMS, she worked as a researcher at the Helmholtz-Center for Environmental Research (Germany), investigating the impact of energy crop cultivation on aquatic ecosystems. Ms. Orlinskiy is not new to the region of Central Asia. She grew up in Almaty (Kazakhstan) and has previously worked with Central Asian delegates at UNFCCC COP 17, as a contact person for the Russian-speaking countries and as a free lance translator for the Saiga Conservation Alliance. Some of the CMS delegates may remember her from the 16th CMS Scientific Council Meeting and the Siberian Crane MOU, where she assisted in 2010 as a CMS intern.



YELIZAVETA PROTAS, THE NEW ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME OFFICER, TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

Yelizaveta (or Lizza, as she prefers to be known) joined the CMS team to cover for Aline Kuehl-Stenzel who is on maternity leave until February 2017. Lizza has worked in the field of conservation around the world, including Russia and Central Asia. A biologist by training, she has a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry from Barnard College, and a Master's degree in Conservation Biology from Columbia University (New York). She has previously worked with WCS on tiger research in Russia, and collaborated with Panthera on original snow leopard research in Uzbekistan.

Her other career highlights include working on Wrangel Island Reserve as a research assistant, with WCS as assistant to the policy director, and as interpreter on two different wildlife film crews documenting Siberian tigers.

Upcoming Events



22-26 August 2016, Isle of Vilm, Germany:

CAMI expert workshop “Setting priorities for the implementation of the Central Asian Mammal Initiative (CAMI)”

The goal of the workshop is to identify urgent conservation issues, to set priorities in implementing CAMI and to initiate/or strengthen the implementation of priority activities in a coordinated way. In order to achieve this goal, the workshop participants will:

- 1) identify the most urgent conservation issues,
- 2) create an overview of ongoing and planned projects for enhanced

cooperation and coordination,

- 3) identify gaps and needs for future planning (both small- and large-scale activities) and, based on this, draft two project concepts or initial proposals to be supported by available small-scale funds,
- 4) provide advice and support in implementing the following activities within CAMI: a) to establish a Central Asian scientific initiative; b) to encourage more active participation of non-Party Range States; c) to establish a dialogue with the mining industry; d) raise awareness in the region and internationally.

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6 September 2016, IUCN World Conservation Congress,
Hawaii:

CMS-organized workshop “Empowering local communities to combat poaching: lessons learned from Africa and their applicability in Central Asia”

CMS together with its partners UNDP and the IUCN Sustainable Livelihoods Specialists Group (IUCN SULi) is organizing a short workshop session provisionally titled “Empowering local communities to combat poaching: lessons learned from Africa and their applicability in Central Asia”.

The session aims to showcase the role of community-based conservation in combatting poaching and illegal wildlife trade using the example of a study from South Africa. It will also facilitate a discussion on the applicability of this approach to Central Asia with an emphasis on CAMI species. The session will build on the results of IUCN SULi-led symposium and workshop entitled: “Beyond Enforcement: Involving Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade: Regional workshop for West and Central Africa” (key publications will be available beforehand). The feasibility of community-based conservation in Central Asia and alternatives, such as enhanced law enforcement (e.g. using SMART), will be discussed and recommendations for developing community-based conservation projects in Central Asia will be produced.



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Hawai'i 2016



Saiga Antelopes © E. Polonskiy

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 123 Member States.

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