



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING  
CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE  
USE OF THE SAIGA ANTELOPE (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*)  
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 7-10 September 2010  
Agenda Item 7.0

## EXTENSION OF THE MEMORANDUM'S TAXONOMIC AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

(Note prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

1. The taxonomic scope of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is the migratory taxon or taxa targeted by the MoU.
2. The geographical scope of a MoU is the geographical area to which the MoU applies. The geographical scope corresponds to part or all of the range of the species that the MoU targets (as defined by Article I paragraph 1.f of the Convention, i.e. the areas of land or water that a migratory species inhabits, stays in temporarily, crosses or overflies at any time on its normal migration route).
3. The Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) currently applies to all the existing wild populations of the subspecies *Saiga tatarica tatarica*, as recognized by Wilson and Reeder (1993)<sup>1</sup>. This taxonomic coverage reflects the listing of saiga taxa in CMS Appendix II at the time of the MoU's conclusion in Almaty, Kazakhstan (2006). Four Range States were recognized on the basis of the state of knowledge on the distribution and migration of *Saiga tatarica tatarica*.
4. While the MoU formally applies only to the nominate subspecies, it has been acknowledged in various occasions that the institutional and programmatic context established by the MoU could be instrumental to promote the conservation of the other recognized saiga subspecies, *Saiga tatarica mongolica*. In this regard, CITES Decision 13.30 urges Mongolia to participate in the implementation of those elements of the Saiga MoU Action Plan that were relevant to the conservation of its Saiga population. The government of Mongolia confirmed its commitment towards the implementation of the MoU and Action Plan by signing the MoU as cooperating organization. The Medium Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2007-2011) adopted by the First Meeting of the Signatories to the MoU (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 25-26 September 2006) recognizes that similar measures to those foreseen for *Saiga tatarica tatarica* could be applied to *Saiga tatarica mongolica*, and invites Mongolia to consider applying them.

<sup>1</sup> Wilson, D.E. and Reeder, D.M. (1993). Mammal species of the world. A taxonomic and geographic reference. 2nd ed. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

5. The Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Rome, 2008) extended the listing of saiga on CMS Appendix II to cover the whole of the species *Saiga tatarica* as recognized by Wilson and Reeder (2003). As a consequence of the change in the taxonomic reference adopted by CMS for terrestrial mammals (Wilson and Reeder (2005)<sup>2</sup>) the listing on Appendix II was then updated to include the species *Saiga tatarica* and *Saiga borealis*.

6. Whatever taxonomic reference is employed, CMS Appendix II includes at present all saiga taxa, while the MoU only part of them. With a view to reconcile the current mismatch, an extension of the taxonomic scope of the MoU to cover all saiga taxa (*Saiga* spp.) is proposed for consideration by the signatories.

7. If agreed, the above-mentioned extension of the taxonomic scope would have also implication on the geographic scope of the MoU, with Mongolia to be logically recognized as a new Range State.

**Action requested:**

The Signatories are requested to:

- Discuss and, where appropriate, endorse the above proposal to expand the taxonomic scope of the MoU from *Saiga tatarica tatarica* to *Saiga* spp. and to recognise Mongolia as a Range State to the MoU.

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<sup>2</sup> Wilson, D. E. & Reeder, D. M. (ed.) (2005): Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference. Third edition, John Hopkins University Press.