



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/BKD/TW1/Outcomes

Original: English

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP UNDER THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE
BUKHARA DEER (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*)
Online, 19-22 October 2020

OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

Summary:

This document contains the outcomes recommended by the Participants of the Technical Workshop under the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation and Restoration of The Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*) (Bukhara Deer MOU), held online on 20-22 October 2020.

The Annexes to this document contain the following outcomes:

- Annex 1: Draft Overview Report
- Annex 2: Draft Work Programme 2021-2026
- Annex 3: Draft National Reporting Format

OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

Background

1. The expert workshop under the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*) (Bukhara Deer MOU) was jointly organized by the CMS Secretariat and the International Academy for Nature Conservation of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany with funding from the German Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).
2. This meeting was initially planned as the second Meeting of the Signatory States to the MOU (MOS2), but could not take place due to the pandemic. The technical workshop was carried out instead and took place online with the view to prepare key documents: the Overview Report, the draft Work Programme for Bukhara Deer 2021-2026 and the new National Reporting Format. The initial drafts of these documents were prepared by WWF Russia on behalf of the CMS Secretariat with the financial support of the German BMU. To prepare the documents, WWF Russia undertook an analysis of the national reports submitted by Signatories as well as consultations with experts and Range State governments.
3. The participants of the workshop included government representatives from several Bukhara Deer Range States, scientists and representatives of national and international NGOs. They discussed challenges and priorities in ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of Bukhara Deer populations in the years to come. The meeting participants amended and endorsed the three main outcome documents for consideration and adoption by the MOU Signatory States. In addition, the participants recommended that future reporting under the Bukhara Deer MOU and MOS should take place in the frame of the meetings planned for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative.

Conservation Status of the Bukhara Deer

4. Participants discussed the overview report on the conservation status of the Bukhara Deer and the overall population trends. The report shows that the situation of Bukhara Deer has stabilized with many populations stable or growing. The species has been successfully reintroduced in parts of its former range with absolute numbers having increased from 350 animals at the time the Bukhara Deer MOU was signed in 2002 to about 3,500 in 2020. The meeting endorsed the overview report (contained in Annex 1) with some amendments.

Draft Work Programme for the Bukhara Deer 2021-2025

5. Participants discussed the draft Work Programme for the Bukhara Deer, which contains actions to maintain and restore habitat, prevent poaching, ensure participation of local communities in conservation work, scientific research, international cooperation, captive breeding and reintroduction as well as specific measures for each Range State. The document was endorsed by the Meeting with amendments and is contained in Annex 2.

Bukhara Deer and the Central Asian Mammals Initiative

6. The Bukhara Deer is one of the species covered by the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), which was officially launched in 2014 by the 11th Conference of the Parties to CMS in Quito, Ecuador. In September 2019, the Second CAMI Range State Meeting took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The meeting developed a comprehensive Programme of Work 2021-2026 (CAMI POW) for 14 CMS-listed mammals covered by the Initiative and revised Resolution 11.24, which was updated by COP13 (Resolution 11.24 (Rev. COP13)) in Gandhinagar, India in February 2020 along with the CAMI POW in its Annex.

7. CAMI was designed to provide a common strategic framework for action at the international level to conserve migratory mammals and their habitat in the wider Central Asian region. It aims at bringing together and harmonizing implementation of existing CMS instruments and mandates as well as initiatives undertaken by other stakeholders. All Signatories of the Bukhara Deer MOU are also Range States of CAMI.
8. Against this backdrop, participants recommend the full integration of the Bukhara Deer MOU into the cooperative framework provided by CAMI, which means that:
 - a. meetings to assess the conservation status of the Bukhara Deer and develop conservation actions for the species will be conducted within the framework of CAMI;
 - b. meetings and reporting requirements as well as reviews of implementation of the MOU will be fully aligned with CAMI Range State meeting cycles;
 - c. Signatory States of the MOU are requested to enhance their cooperation on Bukhara Deer using the CAMI framework and processes.

National Reporting and Contact Points

9. Participants discussed a draft national reporting format and provided a number of comments, which are included in the revised version contained in Annex 3 to this document. It was proposed that in accordance with paragraph 5 above, the Secretariat would request Bukhara Deer Range States to submit their national reports using the revised format in conjunction with the CAMI reporting request one year before the next CAMI Range State meeting. The Secretariat would use those reports to compile the Overview Report, which would signal progress and identify gaps in the implementation of the Bukhara Deer Work Programme and MOU.
10. Participants also proposed that the Bukhara Deer contact points in the MOU Signatory States would, in accordance with the practice under CAMI, be the CMS National Focal Points in those countries and that Olga Pereladova as the CAMI Species Focal Point for Bukhara Deer would coordinate the technical input with experts in the Range States.

Next Steps

11. The meeting proposed that the outcomes of the meeting should be submitted by the Secretariat to the MOU Signatories for adoption, either by correspondence intersessionally or at the next Meeting of Signatories, to take place in conjunction with the 3rd CAMI Range State Meeting in 2026.