



**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

**Memorandum of Understanding concerning
Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the
Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*)**

and

Action Plan

Memorandum of Understanding

concerning

**Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the
Saiga Antelope**
(Saiga tatarica tatarica)

Memorandum of Understanding
concerning
Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope
(Saiga tatarica tatarica)

between

The Forestry and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation

The Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan

The State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The undersigned, acting on behalf of the respective authorities named above

Assuming international responsibilities to conserve and sustainably use the Saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) pursuant to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Nairobi, 1992), which has recognized migratory species as a unique globally important component of biodiversity under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (Bonn, 1979), and that CMS is the CBD lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species over their entire migratory range (Decision VI/20);

Recalling that CMS calls for international cooperative action to conserve migratory species, and that CMS Article IV, paragraph 4 encourages Contracting Parties to conclude Agreements - including non-binding administrative agreements such as this one - in respect of any population of migratory species;

Also recalling CMS Conference of Parties Resolution 6.4 (Strategic Plan for the Convention on Migratory Species) and operational objective 1.4 (Terrestrial Mammals, other than bats);

Noting that the Saiga antelope is included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (Washington, 1973);

Concerned about unsustainable or illegal domestic and international trade in specimens of the species;

Aware that the Standing Committee of CITES recommended the development of a regional conservation strategy for the Saiga antelope;

Aware that the historical range of the Saiga antelope included the vast plains of the Central Asian and Pre-Caspian region;

Recognising that the numbers and the range of the Saiga antelope have declined considerably in recent decades, and that its unfavourable conservation status is of great concern in some parts of its current range;

Concerned that poaching and illegal trade in horns and other products, uncontrolled hunting, destruction of habitats, and construction of irrigation channels, roads and other obstacles preventing natural dispersion and migration are thought to have contributed to recent declines of populations of the Saiga antelope, and that economic hardship, impoverishment of local communities, and poor land use planning are root causes that need to be addressed to preserve the Saiga antelope;

Noting the need to improve the protection of the Saiga antelope and its habitats within each Range State and the importance of regional cooperation for its conservation, restoration and sustainable use, including international trade;

Conscious that coordinated and concerted national and transboundary actions by the authorities of the Range States responsible for conserving and managing the Saiga antelope, sub-regional, regional and international organizations, trade and business associations, local populations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders would enhance its conservation, recovery and sustainable use, and that of the habitats and ecosystems that are important for its long-term survival;

Acknowledging the shared responsibility towards future generations to conserve, restore and sustainably use the Saiga antelope and those habitats and ecosystems that are important for its long-term survival, and the need to undertake national and joint conservation and management activities;

Confirming that the Range States of the Saiga antelope have the first responsibility to implement this Memorandum of Understanding; and

Acknowledging that a number of organizations will, within their respective mandates and capacities, support the implementation of the Action Plan;

AGREE to collaborate to improve the conservation status of the Saiga antelope throughout its range, and to undertake national and joint activities to conserve, restore and sustainably use the species and those habitats and ecosystems important for its long-term survival, including the measures specified in the Action Plan that is annexed to and forms an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

To this end, and in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation, they shall individually or collectively:

1. Provide effective protection for the Saiga antelope and, where feasible and appropriate, conserve, restore and sustainably use those habitats and ecosystems that are important for its long-term survival;

2. Implement the provisions of the Action Plan that shall aim to (a) restore numbers of the Saiga antelope to ecologically and biologically appropriate levels, (b) restore range and habitats of Saiga antelope to ecologically and biologically appropriate levels and (c) enhance transboundary and international cooperation through *inter alia* a regional conservation and management strategy;
3. Assess regularly the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and the Action Plan. For this purpose, regular meetings can be convened by or in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS Secretariat), and hosted by and organized in collaboration with one of the undersigned Range States or any cooperating organizations;
4. Facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical and legal information to undertake coordinated measures to conserve, restore and sustainably use Saiga antelope, and cooperate with other States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other bodies interested in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan;
5. Designate a competent authority to serve as a focal point for the purpose of implementing this Memorandum of Understanding, and communicate without delay the name and contact details of this authority/person (and any changes thereto) to the CMS Secretariat. For general co-ordination and realization of the Action Plan, the possibility of establishing an intergovernmental commission for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the Saiga antelope and its habitat shall be considered; and
6. Provide to the CMS Secretariat, within one year of the date of its entry into effect, a detailed report on the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding by the signatory States. The signatory States in consultation with the CMS Secretariat shall determine the report format. The format will support (a) the informational needs of the signatory States to effectively implement the Memorandum of Understanding and (b) the reporting requirements of the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES where appropriate. The CMS Secretariat shall transmit to each of the Range States and to cooperating organizations the reports received together with an overview report, which it shall compile on the basis of information at its disposal.

Final Clauses

7. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be considered an agreement under CMS article IV, paragraph 4, as defined by Resolution 2.6 adopted at the 2nd Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 1988).
8. This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect immediately after at least three of the Range States have signed it. It shall remain open for signature indefinitely. The Memorandum shall remain in effect indefinitely subject to the right of any signatory State to terminate its participation by providing one year's written notice to all of the other signatory States. Written notice shall also be provided to the Depositary.

9. This Memorandum of Understanding, including the Action Plan, may be amended by consensus of the signatory States.
10. The original text of this Memorandum of Understanding in the English and Russian languages shall be deposited with the CMS Secretariat, which shall act as the Depositary. In the event of any discrepancies, the English version will be considered definitive.
11. The CMS Secretariat shall provide Secretariat functions as outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding. It may use the services of any reliable organization. The working language for all matters related to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be English and, to the extent practicable, Russian. Signatory States, cooperating organizations involved and the CMS Secretariat shall endeavour to provide any important document in both working languages.
12. The implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Action Plan is to be carried out in accordance with the rules of international law and the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

On behalf of the respective authorities named above:

От имени соответствующих государственных органов, указанных выше:

Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Представитель Республики Казахстан

(Signature/Подпись)

(name in block letters/ФИО)

(Date/дата)

(function/должность)

Representative of the Russian Federation
Представитель Российской Федерации

(Signature/Подпись)

(name in block letters/ФИО)

(Date/дата)

(function/должность)

Representative of Turkmenistan
Представитель Туркменистана

(Signature/Подпись)

(name in block letters/ФИО)

(Date/дата)

(function/должность)

Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Представитель Республики Узбекистан

(Signature/Подпись)

(name in block letters/ФИО)

(Date/дата)

(function/должность)

Signatures of representatives of the Co-operating Organisations:
Подписи представителей сотрудничающих организаций:

Representative of the UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Представитель Секретариата UNEP/CMS

(Signature/Подпись)

(name in block letters/ФИО)

(Date/дата)

(function/должность)

Representative of the Ministry of Nature and Environment of Mongolia
Представитель Министерства природы и окружающей среды Монголии

(Signature/Подпись)

(name in block letters/ФИО)

(Date/дата)

(function/должность)

Representative of the International Council for Game
& Wildlife Conservation/Conseil International de la Chasse
Представитель Международного совета по охране
охотничьих видов животных и дикой природы

(Signature/Подпись)

(name in block letters/ФИО)

(Date/дата)

(function/должность)

Representative of the Species Survival Commission of
IUCN - The World Conservation Union
Представитель Комиссии по выживанию видов
Международного союза охраны природы МСОП (IUCN)

(Signature/Подпись)

(name in block letters/ФИО)

(Date/дата)

(function/должность)

Representative of WWF International
Преставитель WWF – Всемирного Фонда дикой природы

(Signature/Подпись)

(name in block letters/ФИО)

(Date/дата)

(function/должность)

Action Plan

**concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use
of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*)**

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible ¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
1. Restore populations of Saiga Antelope (SA) to ecologically and biologically appropriate levels throughout its range	1. Assess the feasibility to restore SA populations to appropriate levels in different parts of its range, and identify challenges and opportunities.	<p>1. Collect available information on past quantitative distribution of SA within its range and analyse collected data on SA numbers in different parts of its range.</p> <p>2. Establish “appropriate” levels of SA populations in the Range States.</p> <p>3. Assess the practical possibilities to increase SA populations in the Range States by determining opportunities, costs, timeframe, stakeholders' involvement, major hurdles and difficulties.</p> <p>4. Develop restoration plans for different SA populations.</p> <p>5. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 4.</p>	Range States	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		
	2. Establish and adopt a standardised monitoring programme that will allow to regularly census SA populations in the Range States.	<p>1. Review different census techniques, and adopt ‘best practice’ methodologies for reliable counting of SA populations.</p> <p>2. Identify appropriate sample sizes, timing, and frequency of counts to provide reliable base line data for extrapolation and analysis of evolution of SA populations.</p> <p>3. Provide training in standard census techniques as appropriate.</p> <p>4. Ensure that standardised techniques are used in all Range States for comparison and joint analysis.</p> <p>5. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 4.</p>	Range States	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		

¹ For the purposes of implementing the Action Plan, the responsible organisation for Uzbekistan is the State Committee for Nature Protection.

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible ¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
	3. Determine and survey key areas where SA populations occur, using standardised census techniques.	<p>1. Conduct aerial and ground surveys to determine changes of the winter and summer territories of SA with emphasis on lambing, rutting and migration areas.</p> <p>2. Collect base line data on SA populations in a standardised manner, and monitor the changes annually or at agreed frequencies.</p> <p>3. Analyse the status of SA populations over time and develop recommendations to manage them as necessary.</p> <p>4. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 3 for at least five consecutive years.</p>	Range States	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		
	4. Assess the current sex/age ratio and determine the reproduction success in SA populations.	<p>1. Count regularly sex/age ratio in SA populations, and establish base line data to determine the evolution of sex ratio, reproduction success and age structure.</p> <p>2. Undertake field investigations of SA breeding biology and ecology with use of techniques that cause minimal harm to SA.</p> <p>3. Identify the factors that prevent reaching the biologically appropriate sex/age ratio in SA populations in different parts of its range.</p> <p>4. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 3.</p>	Range States	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible ¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
	5. Assess the impacts of natural threats to SA populations.	<p>1. Collect data on and assess long-term impacts of climate change, diseases and other natural threats to SA populations in different parts of its range.</p> <p>2. Survey predator numbers using standardised census techniques in areas currently inhabited by SA populations.</p> <p>3. Determine the impact of predators on SA populations in the Range States in different seasons, under different forms of predator control, and on different SA age classes, and identify 'best practices' for predator management.</p> <p>4. Use an ecosystem-based approach to develop appropriate measures to control diseases and to manage predators and other wild species sharing habitats with SA to enhance their co-function in the ecosystem.</p> <p>5. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 4.</p>	Range States	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible ¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
	6. Assess the impacts of human induced threats on SA populations.	<p>1. Collect and assess long-term data on impacts of farming and agriculture, industrial development, road and channel construction, and other human induced factors in different parts of the SA range.</p> <p>2. Prepare questionnaire and interview local people to obtain basic information on socio-economics of poaching and illegal trade, to identify incentives and disincentives for poaching, and attitudes regarding governmental SA conservation and antipoaching activities.</p> <p>3. Develop antipoaching programmes, measures to control illegal trade, and law enforcement mechanisms and test their efficiency in different circumstances and parts of the SA range.</p> <p>4. Develop a confiscation policy for SA products and ensure that benefits of retailed or auctioned seized products are reinvested in SA conservation.</p> <p>5. Review and where necessary strengthen legal and institutional measures concerning SA protection, control of poaching and illegal trade.</p> <p>6. Strengthen the system for protection SA populations and the local participation in antipoaching efforts.</p> <p>7. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 6.</p>	Range States	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible ¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
	7. Examine the role of <i>ex situ</i> conservation and captivity breeding centres (CBC) in enhancing wild SA populations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect and analyse available information on the role of existing CBC in <i>ex situ</i> conservation of SA. 2. Conduct experiments to develop artificial insemination of SA females kept in CBC. 3. Assess the need for and the costs of establishing new and/or maintaining existing CBC in the Range States. 4. Establish SA populations in captivity representing different gene pools. 5. Prepare SA groups (particularly males) born in CBC for release in natural habitats pursuant to the IUCN Reintroduction Guidelines. 6. Determine the technical feasibility, need and economic viability of commercial SA farming (game ranching) in natural or semi-natural conditions to produce live animals, horns, skins, and meat, and to provide economic benefits for local people. 7. Prepare special syllabuses for CBC to train future SA farmers and persons planning to work in CBC. 8. Develop additional national legal instruments to permit captive breeding and farming of SA including the collection of live animals from natural habitats for this purpose. 9. Prepare information on SA biology for ecological education and ecotourists visiting CBC. 10. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 9. 	Range States	CMS CITES WWF- International Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat		

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible ¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
2. Restore range and habitats of SA to ecologically and biologically optimal levels	1. Collect available information on suitable habitats used by SA and identify the spatial structure of its range.	<p>1. Analyse information on habitats of SA and the spatial structure of its former and current range.</p> <p>2. Use GIS and modern technologies to assess key habitats and their carrying capacity, and to map habitats currently used by SA.</p> <p>3. Obtain financial and technical support to apply modern technology to habitat studies.</p>	Range States	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		
	2. Analyse past and present preferences in use of habitats by SA in different seasons.	<p>1. Identify key features, including food and shelter requirements, of past and present habitats of SA.</p> <p>2. Conduct experiments in restoring SA habitats and in increasing their carrying capacity.</p> <p>3. Elaborate conservation and restoration plans for the former SA range, and ensure that suitable migratory ecological corridors are established to connect existing SA populations.</p> <p>4. Develop a programme for involving local people living on and using land where SA occur to improve land management and cohabitation between SA and people.</p> <p>5. Assess the economic and ecological feasibility to maintain both SA and livestock in SA habitats, and develop recommendations for local communities.</p> <p>6. Analyse and if necessary strengthen laws and institutions in the Range States concerning protection and restoration of SA habitats.</p> <p>7. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 6.</p>	Range States	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible ¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
	<p>3. Examine the existing network of Protected Areas (PA), and evaluate its effectiveness in protecting SA habitats and populations.</p>	<p>1. Collect and analyse available information and elaborate proposals to improve PA networks in the Range States for restoring habitats and SA numbers.</p> <p>2. Prepare information on SA biology to be used for ecological education and for ecotourists visiting PA.</p> <p>3. Strengthen the involvement of different stakeholders in SA conservation, restoration and sustainable use, as well as in PA management, by creating public councils for each PA within the SA range.</p> <p>4. Establish local student volunteer teams for strengthening conservation of nature and SA within and around each PA within the SA range.</p> <p>5. Organise and convene local and international Summer youth camps in different parts of the SA range aimed to help PA in implementing their SA conservation programs.</p> <p>6. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 5.</p>	<p>Range States</p>	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible ¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
<p>3. Enhance transboundary and international co-operation for conservation and sustainable use of SA.</p>	<p>1. Develop a coherent regional conservation and management strategy for SA and monitor its implementation in the Range States.</p>	<p>1. Ensure the regional implementation of the MoU and of the Action Plan.</p> <p>2. Elaborate national Action Plans and improve communication between the Range States on SA conservation and management.</p> <p>3. Develop pilot SA conservation projects in the Range States to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Action Plan, as well as the costs of different activities, and adapt the national Action Plans as necessary.</p> <p>4. Integrate SA conservation, restoration and sustainable use programmes into different economic sectors through legal and policy instruments regarding biodiversity conservation and/or rural development.</p> <p>5. Strengthen co-operation between national state authorities, political decision makers, economic sectors, and local communities on land-uses that are not harmful to SA.</p> <p>6. Improve legal and economic mechanisms for SA conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and identify incentives to enhance conservation efforts by and support from local people.</p> <p>7. In collaboration with the private sector encourage the establishment of several SA breeding farms (or ranches) to achieve conservation, restoration and sustainable use of SA resources.</p> <p>8. Combine financial and technical resources of the Range States to implement the Action Plan and undertake co-ordinated joint activities to obtain funds from different sources.</p>	<p>Range States</p>	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible ¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
	<p>2. Increase public awareness and involvement in SA conservation programs and assess the behaviour and the attitude of local people towards SA over time.</p>	<p>1. Conduct regular questionnaire surveys to collect information on the attitude of local people towards SA, and changes over time, in different parts of the SA range.</p> <p>2. Involve mass-media (regional, national, local level) in addressing SA conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and in explaining the relevant challenges.</p> <p>3. Involve regional specialists in the Range States in awareness and educational programmes aimed at local people, covering different aspects of the Action Plan.</p> <p>4. Create and regularly update a web-site about SA conservation, restoration and sustainable use.</p> <p>5. Produce CDs, video and TV films on SA conservation, restoration and sustainable use for national and international audiences, and for education and training purposes.</p> <p>6. Organise and convene annual national festivals "SA is our living heritage" in each the Range State.</p> <p>7. Conduct projects to assess optimal sharing social and economic values of SA conservation and trade in SA products (including disposal of confiscated goods) with local people.</p> <p>8. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 7.</p>	<p>Range States</p>	<p>CMS CITES WWF-International Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible ¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
	3. Enhance international co-operation.	<p>1. Consider establishing an intergovernmental commission for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of SA and its habitats in order to generally co-ordinate and realise the Action Plan.</p> <p>2. Designate national co-ordinators responsible for liaison with counterparts in other Range States and with co-operating organisations, and improve exchange of information and technical expertise on SA conservation, restoration and sustainable use.</p> <p>3. Establish public councils in the Range States for evaluation of regional and interregional projects dealing with SA conservation, restoration and sustainable use.</p> <p>4. Undertake activities to improve compliance with CITES provisions in the Range States as appropriate.</p> <p>5. Encourage full compliance by the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan with CITES recommendations regarding the conservation of and trade in SA as formulated under the Review of Significant Trade.</p> <p>6. Conduct CITES/CMS supported missions to selected Range States and countries consuming SA products.</p> <p>7. Encourage collaboration between the Range States and Asian SA consumer countries to combat illegal trade, to better control legal trade, and to seek support for the implementation of the Action Plan.</p> <p>8. Develop and implement international projects that contribute to the Objectives of the Action Plan with participation of CITES, CMS, SUI/IUCN, IGF, CIC and others.</p> <p>9. Elaborate manuals for customs officers and inspectors, and develop internationally approved certificates for local SA products in close co-ordination with the relevant CITES authorities.</p>	Range States	<p>CMS</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>WWF-International</p> <p>Other international organisations to be consulted by the Range States and the CMS Secretariat</p>		

Objective	Programme	Activity	Responsible¹	Collaborators	Progress/Results	Further Activities
		<p>10. Organise regular meetings of SA Range States national co-ordinators and provide technical training for office and management personnel involved in implementing the Action Plan.</p> <p>11. Train fundraisers and elaborate programmes to obtain funds to implement the Action Plan.</p> <p>12. Obtain financial and technical support to undertake Activities 1 to 11.</p>				

Abbreviations/Acronyms:

SA	Saiga antelope
CBC	Captive breeding centre
PA	Protected area
GIS	Geographic Information System
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
WWF-International	World Wide Fund for Nature
IUCN	World Conservation Union
SUI/IUCN	Sustainable Use Initiative of IUCN
IGF	International Game Foundation
CIC	International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation