

**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 6.0

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. It is a general principle that the CMS Secretariat acts as the secretariat for Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) concluded under CMS auspices. The CMS Secretariat acts as Secretariat for the Saiga Antelope MoU pursuant to MoU paragraph 11. It also acts as the MoU Depository (MoU Paragraph 10).
2. This note provides a brief overview of the Secretariat's responsibilities as depository and provides a summary of the status of signatures to the MoU and the Secretariat's recruitment efforts since the MoU's entry into effect. Section 2 briefly summarises efforts to generate a provisional list of designated contact points.

Status of Signatures and Recruitment Efforts to Date

3. The CMS Secretariat undertakes a number of activities as the MoU's depository. The primary activity is to keep track of the status of the MoU. It keeps the original version of the MoU on file, it notifies the signatories of new signatures and it transmits certified copies of the MoU to the various Signatory States and organisations that have signed the MoU.
4. Document CMS/SA-1/Inf.1 notes that as of 1 August 2006 there were two Signatories - Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan - to the MoU. The last signature was that of Uzbekistan on 23 May 2006.
5. The CMS Secretariat is active in recruitment efforts to complete the membership of all four Range States in the MoU. Individual contacts have been made with and supporting documentation provided to the Forestry and Hunting Committee in Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation to encourage their signature of the MoU.
6. In addition, the Secretariat has been working to recruit key governmental and international non-governmental organisations actively working on Saiga conservation issues to sign the MoU as collaborating organisations. Five organisations - Mongolia's Ministry of Nature and Environment, International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation (CIC), Species Survival Commission of IUCN, WWF International and the CMS Secretariat - have signed the MoU as collaborating organisations.

7. By adding their signature to the MoU, collaborating organisations demonstrate their support for the implementation of the MoU and Action Plan. Some of the attributes that would be considered in determining whether an organisation would be invited to sign the MoU as a collaborator include *inter alia*: (1) a long term interest in the particular species; (2) a demonstrated commitment towards the MoU; and (3) a regional presence or influence, including good relations with Range States and national level NGOs in the agreement area.

Action requested:

- The Signatories are invited to consider and take note of the Secretariat's brief report concerning the status of signatures and recruitment efforts.
- Representatives of non-Signatories eligible to sign the MoU are invited to inform the meeting of their organisation's intentions to sign the MoU.
- The meeting is invited to consider ways and means to complete the membership in the MoU.
- Organizations meeting the criteria listed in paragraph 7 above are invited to express their interest in signing the MoU as a collaborating organization.

List of Designated National Contact Points

8. MoU paragraph 5 invites Signatories to designate a competent authority as a focal point for all matters relating to the MoU's implementation and to communicate the name and address of the authority or a person to the Secretariat. By letter dated 25 May 2006 the Secretariat contacted Signatories and transmitted to them the Designated National Contact Point Form (CMS/SA-1/Inf/2/Add.1), with the request to return it as soon as possible.

9. As of 25 August 2006, when this document was finalised, the Secretariat had received responses from Kazakhstan (in anticipation of signature before or during the meeting), Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The list will be updated on a periodic basis by the Secretariat. A provisional list will be presented to the meeting as document CMS/SA-1/Inf/2 if the situation changes. The document will be circulated at the meeting to obtain any updates.

Action requested:

The Signatories are requested to:

- Take note of the provisional list of designated national contact points.
- Provide updated contact information at the meeting, in writing, if it has not been already forwarded to the Secretariat.