



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON THE CONSERVATION OF LARGE MAMMALS IN CENTRAL ASIA

Tuesday 23 - Thursday 25 September 2014, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

UNEP/CMS/CAMI/Doc.6

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THE CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE

Deeply concerned that large mammal migrations in one of the last remaining regions supporting long-distance movements, the Central Asian plains and mountains, are severely threatened by overexploitation of wildlife as well as exploitation of minerals and other natural resources and that the habitats upon which large mammals depend are becoming lost, degraded and fragmented at an unprecedented rate;

Recognizing that extractive industries, infrastructure and fences can have a particularly detrimental impact on the conservation status of migratory mammals and may cause direct mortality and fragmentation of habitats, disrupting essential movement from one place to another and *further recognizing* the urgent need for practical guidelines to mitigate impacts on migratory mammals from linear infrastructure, including the threat from increased human habitation and associated poaching threats, along infrastructure routes, not only in Central Asia, but across the wider Asian region;

Aware that migratory species and their habitats provide essential ecosystem services, such as the carbon storage capacity of grasslands and watersheds of mountains, as well as cultural heritage value and economic benefits for instance through sustainable use and tourism, and that many human communities directly and indirectly rely on the availability of large mammal species and on intact ecosystems for their livelihoods;

Acknowledging the Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals Concerted Action established by Recommendations 8.23 and 9.1, which highlights the exceptional importance of Eurasian arid ecosystems for migratory species and the crucial role of CMS in conserving them, covering in particular five large mammal species listed on Appendix I ([four] of these designated for Concerted Action)¹, and a further six on Appendix II ([four] of these designated for Cooperative Action)²;

¹ Appendix I - Bukhara/Yarkand deer *Cervus elaphus yarkandensis* (listed on both Appendices, not designated for Concerted Action), Wild camel *Camelus bactrianus*, Wild yak *Bos grunniens*, Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*, Snow leopard *Uncia uncia*.

² Appendix II - Saiga antelope *Saiga spp.*, Kiang *Equus kiang*, Argali *Ovis ammon*, Mongolian gazelle *Procapra gutturosa*, Goitered gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*, Kulan *Equus hemionus* (the last four designated for Cooperative Action).

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Further acknowledging the multiple mandates of CMS to work in the region, including Memoranda of Understanding covering the Saiga Antelope and Bukhara Deer;

Noting that most of the species in the Central Asia region listed in the Appendices of CMS are also included in the Appendices of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), thus offering opportunities for synergy as envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Work Programme between the Secretariats of the two Conventions;

Noting with satisfaction the progress made since COP10 in implementing these mandates, in particular the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali *Ovis ammon* (CMS/UNEP/COP11/Doc.23.3.3), and the assessment of conservation gaps and needs (CMS/UNEP/COP11/Inf.21) and the Programme of Work, developed in preparation of a broader initiative to comprise all activities aimed at conserving large migratory mammals and implementing CMS in the Central Asian region;

Recalling the decisions under the Future Shape process, including activities 8 and 15 under Res.10.9 urging Parties to “identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography”, and “to seek opportunities to develop synergistic relationships either based on geography or species clustering“, such as with the development of a common conservation programme;

Welcoming the Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards and the comprehensive, long-term Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme adopted by Range States at the Global Snow Leopard Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic in October 2013; and

Grateful for the financial and in-kind support from the Governments of Switzerland and Germany and the European Union through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) in pursuing the work for the conservation of migratory mammals in the Central Asian region;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Adopts* the Programme of Work for the Conservation of Large Mammal Migrations in Central Asia and *endorses* the concept of the *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)* as an innovative and integrative approach building on a regional programme, that identifies synergies based on common or shared work programmes, geography, species and interests in line with Future Shape decisions, to enhance cooperation and coordination at the local, regional and international level, to minimize institutional overlap and to improve efficient implementation of CMS and its instruments on large mammals in the region;
2. *Further adopts* the Guidelines [to Mitigate Impact from Linear Infrastructure on Migratory Mammals] in Asia;
3. *Also adopts* the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali *Ovis ammon*;

4. *Instructs* the Secretariat subject to funding, to take up the role of coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Work and *considers* establishing a post for an officer within the CMS Secretariat to coordinate the CAMI, including to support the implementation of relevant MOUs, Single Species Action Plans such as for the Argali and other CMS mandates;
5. *Requests* Parties and *invites* all Range States, partner organizations, donors and the private sector to engage in the CAMI and to provide the financial or in-kind resources to support its coordination and full and timely implementation; and
6. *Instructs* the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to continue and strengthen efforts to collaborate with other relevant international fora with a view to strengthening synergies and implementation of CMS and the CAMI in these fora.