



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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TECHNICAL WORKSHOP UNDER THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE
BUKHARA DEER (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*)
Online, 20-22 October 2020

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (MOU) with the associated Action Plan was signed on 16 May 2002 by four Range States - Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and WWF Russia have signed the MOU as cooperating organizations. The CMS Secretariat acts as the Secretariat for the MOU pursuant to paragraph 5 of the MOU (Basic Principles).
2. The First Meeting of Signatories to the MOU (MOS1) took place in November 2011 in Bergen, Norway. Document 3 *Overview Report* and Document 4 *Review of Action Plan Implementation* outline conservation activities that have been undertaken since 2011 to implement the Action Plan. Successes have been achieved in halting population declines across the species' range and absolute numbers of the deer have increased from 350 animals at the time the MOU was signed to about 3,500 in 2020.
3. Following the decision at MOS1 to recognize Afghanistan as an additional Range State of Bukhara Deer, the Secretariat has invited Afghanistan to attend this meeting and to consider signing the MOU.

Bukhara Deer and the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)

4. The Bukhara Deer is a species covered by the Central Asian Mammals Initiative, 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 (POW) (2021-2026) for 14 CMS-listed mammals covered by the initiative and reviewed Resolution 11.24, which was subsequently adopted at COP13 in Gandhinagar, India in February 2020 along with the POW in its annex.
5. The following activities were included for Bukhara Deer in the CAMI Programme of Work 2021-2026, under point 12:
 - 12.1 Arrange a Meeting of Signatories of the CMS Memorandum of Understanding conserving the Restoration and Conservation of the Bukhara Deer, to
 - discuss and agree on reporting format and process;
 - provide status and progress reports on Bukhara deer from Signatory countries;
 - update the International Action Plan under the MOU;

- develop and agree on a system and timeframe of regular information exchange under the MOU and on the revised Action Plan implementation between Signatories and CMS.

12.2 Support Range States to secure funding for the implementation of the most relevant and urgent measures, outlined in the International Action Plan under the MOU as well as national plans.

6. Given that the Bukhara Deer MOS1 ([UNEP/CMS/BKD1/Report](#)) decided to develop a five-year priority work programme for Bukhara Deer conservation under the MOU rather than updating the old Action Plan, the Secretariat has prepared a draft Work Programme 2021-2026 for discussion and adoption at this meeting. This follows a first effort by the Secretariat in 2012, when a draft structure of the Work Programme similar to the one adopted under the Saiga MOU, was developed in accordance with the decision of MOS1 and shared with Signatories and other stakeholders. However, no feedback from Signatories has yet been received.
7. During the Range State Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Bukhara Deer Range States present expressed their interest in continuing and renewing their cooperation under the MOU. The Secretariat therefore organized the Second Meeting of the Signatories to the Bukhara Deer MOU in order to follow up on this request and the actions outlined above.
8. 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.
9. Against this backdrop, and in light of the fact that at the time of writing (two weeks prior to the meeting) only one country, the Republic of Uzbekistan, officially registered for the meeting and submitted its national report to the Secretariat, the Secretariat proposes to fully integrate the MOU in the cooperative framework provided by CAMI, which would include that:
 - a) any meetings to assess the conservation status of the Bukhara Deer and develop work programmes for the conservation of the species will be conducted in 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) the Secretariat will request Signatories of the MOU to submit their national reports as part of the reporting process for CAMI;
 - d) Signatory States of the MOU will enhance their cooperation on Bukhara Deer using the CAMI framework and processes.

National reports and overview report

10. Paragraph 5 of the MOU invites Signatory States to provide the Secretariat with annual national reports and asks the Secretariat to distribute these reports received and compile an overview report. A draft national report format has been prepared by the Secretariat (UNEP/CMS/BKD2/Doc.6) for adoption by this meeting. The draft format will be discussed under the Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda in order to establish a final report format. As mentioned under 9. above, Signatories will be requested to submit their national reports in line with the CAMI reporting cycle, i.e. every five years.
11. The Signatory States have been asked to provide national reports for this meeting using the preliminary national report format adopted at MOS1. As at 10 October 2020, only Uzbekistan has submitted its national report. The report has been made available within the documentation for the Meeting as document UNEP/CMS/BKD2/Inf.5.

List of National Contact Points

12. Paragraph 4 of the MOU invites the Signatory States to officially designate a competent authority to serve as a contact point for the other Signatories. In line with paragraph 8 above, the Secretariat proposes that focal points for the Bukhara Deer MOU to be identical with the focal points for CAMI, i.e. the CMS National Focal Points, with Olga Pereladova as the CAMI Species Focal Point for Bukhara Deer. The list of contacts is available as Inf.6.

Action requested

13. The Signatories are requested to:
 - a) take note of this report;
 - b) decide on the future operation of the MOU and its relationship with CAMI as proposed by the Secretariat.