



# 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

*Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 23-25 September 2014*

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### Declaration

Representatives of Governments of the States of the Region, non-governmental, national and international organizations, observers and experts,

*Aware* that Central Asia is a region of global importance for many endangered migratory mammals, which rely on interconnected and un-fragmented steppe, desert and mountain ecosystems for their survival;

*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 degraded and fragmented at an unprecedented rate;

Aware that long-distance movements of many species are unpredictable, which increases the need to maintain the permeability of large landscapes;

*Aware* that migratory species and their habitats provide essential ecosystem services and cultural heritage value as well as 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 existing work under CMS in the region, including the Memoranda of Understanding covering the Saiga antelope and Bukhara deer, the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali, and the Guidelines to mitigate the impact from mining and infrastructure on migratory mammals in Central Asia;

*Conscious* of the urgent need for science-based and internationally co-ordinated conservation measures and an effective international framework of cooperation to ensure the survival of large mammal species and their habitats as well as to provide sustainable benefits to people;

*Recognizing* existing international and national conservation measures and instruments and that the effectiveness of such measures and instruments can be enhanced by international co-ordination and cooperation;

*Having considered* the different approaches towards addressing the main threats to migratory mammals and ways to enhance the cooperation and communication between all stakeholders to better protect those species and their habitat;

HEREBY

*Agree* on the development of the Programme of Work for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative 2014-2020 as drafted during this meeting in order to better protect migratory mammals in the region at the local, regional and international level;

*Request* the Contracting Parties to CMS to adopt the Resolution on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative including its annexes at their 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to take place in Quito, Ecuador (4-9 November);

*Further request* the Contracting Parties to CMS to agree on establishing the post for an officer within the CMS Secretariat to coordinate implementation of the programme of work as well as to support the implementation of relevant MOUs, Single Species Action Plans and other CMS mandates in Central Asia;

*Urge* States of the Region as well as CMS Parties and other donors to provide the financial and other resources necessary to support the implementation of the Programme of Work;

*Agree* to strengthen cooperation, communication and joint efforts throughout the entire relevant territory, across political and international boundaries to ensure the conservation of these species and their habitat.

The following Range States were represented at the meeting:

Afghanistan, Bhutan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

The CMS Secretariat and a number of international and national non-governmental organizations, scientists and experts were also present (see attached list of participants).

Done in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on the 25th day of September, 2014.

*Confirming the correct wording of the meeting's Declaration:*



Mr. David Mallon  
Chair of the Meeting  
IUCN Species Survival Commission



Mr. Bert Lenten  
Deputy Executive Secretary  
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**Stakeholder Meeting on the Conservation of Large Mammals in Central Asia  
Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), 23-25 September 2014**

**List of participants**

(Total: 67)

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