



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
Agenda Item 6.0

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the CMS 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 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 UNEP/CMS/SA-2/Inf/2 notes that as of 1 August 2010 there were four Signatories – Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation - to the MoU. The last signature was that of the Russian Federation on 24 June 2009. With the signature of the Russian Federation, all current Range States are signatories to the MoU.
5. In addition to the current four Range States, seven governmental and international non-governmental organisations actively working on Saiga conservation issues have signed the MoU as co-operating organisations. –These are: Mongolia's Ministry of Nature and Environment, International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation (CIC), Species Survival Commission of IUCN, WWF International, Fauna & Flora International, Frankfurt Zoological Society and Wildlife Conservation Society. The CMS Secretariat –has also signed the MoU.
6. Two additional organizations - the Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA) and the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) - have expressed their interest to sign the MoU as co-operating organisations by sending formal requests to the Secretariat prior the present Meeting of the Signatories to the MoU. The requests are annexed to

the present document. The same requests have been transmitted to the signatory States before the meeting. The addition of new signatories as co-operating organisations being considered an amendment of the MoU, acceptance of the new signatories require the consensus of Signatory States in conformity with paragraph 9 of the MoU. A decision in this regard is expected to be made at the meeting.

7. By adding their signature to the MoU, co-operating 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.

List of Designated National Contact Points

8. MoU paragraph 5 invites Signatories to designate a competent authority as a contact point for all matters relating to the MoU's implementation and to communicate the name and address of the authority and a person to the Secretariat. During March 2010 the Secretariat contacted Signatories and transmitted to them the Designated National Contact Point Form (UNEP/CMS/SA-2/Inf/4), with the request to return it as soon as possible.

9. The list of Designated National Contact Points will be updated on a periodic basis by the Secretariat. A list compiled on the basis of the information received by the Secretariat is submitted to the meeting as document UNEP/CMS/SA-2/Inf/3 for reference, confirmation and possible updates.

Action requested:

The Signatories are requested to:

- (a) Consider and take note of the Secretariat's brief report concerning the status of signatures and recruitment efforts.
- (b) Decide on the acceptance of the Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA) and the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) as co-operating organisations.
- (c) Invite other Organisations meeting the criteria listed in paragraph 7 above, to express their interest in signing the MoU as a co-operating organisation.
- (d) Take note of the provisional list of designated national contact points.
- (e) Provide updated contact information at the meeting, in writing, if it has not been already forwarded to the Secretariat.



Proposal for the Saiga Conservation Alliance to join the CMS MOU on saiga conservation as a cooperating organization

Background to the Saiga Conservation Alliance

The Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA) is committed to restoring the saiga antelope to its position as the flagship species of the Central Asian and pre-Caspian steppes, reflecting the species' cultural and economic value to local people and its fundamental role in the steppe ecosystem. We work collaboratively, and freely share our expertise and enthusiasm for saigas. We disseminate our work widely - to those working for saiga conservation, the public throughout the world, governments and the wider conservation community.

The SCA has been registered as a charity with the Charity Commission of England and Wales since May 2010. It was first constituted as an organization in September 2006. The structure consists of a Board of Trustees, Steering Committee, individual and institutional members and supporters. The SCA is an international organization, and its constitution ensures representation of each of the saiga range states in governance and direction. Its main activities include carrying out on the ground conservation projects, raising awareness of the saiga and its conservation, publishing the bulletin *Saiga News* and awarding small grants to grassroots projects. The organization's work has a strong capacity-building element, promoting training at all levels. The organization is staffed by volunteers and has no core funding, but its activities are currently supported financially or in kind by WCN, FFI, WWF-China, the People's Trust for Endangered Species, CIC, the Rufford Foundation and the Save our Species fund. The SCA has been a Partner Organization? of the Wildlife Conservation Network since 2007.

Rationale for joining

The SCA has been a major contributor to the CMS MOU on saiga conservation since the MOU's inception. The SCA was officially launched just before the first meeting of the signatories to the MOU, and SCA members contributed heavily to the technical meeting prior to the first MOU and to the drafting of the documentation (overview report and Medium Term Work Programme).

Since then, the SCA has played a pivotal role in the monitoring of progress towards implementation of the MOU; maintaining the database of projects and experts, publishing 6-monthly progress reports online and in *Saiga News*, and convening an informal Saiga Antelope Technical Meeting to assess progress in MoU implementation in October 2008, reporting to the UNEP/CMS Secretariat. The SCA small grants programme is specifically aimed at supporting projects implementing the action points in the MTWP; only those that show a clear benefit to a relevant action point are eligible for funding.

At the Second Meeting of the Signatories to the MOU on saiga conservation, the SCA is contributing to the technical meeting prior to the MOU meeting, providing technical expertise, preparing the draft documentation for the meeting and reporting back to the MOU meeting.



All these activities demonstrate the absolute commitment of the SCA to the CMS MOU on saiga conservation, and therefore the appropriateness of the SCA signing the MOU as a cooperating organization.

Proposed contribution

The SCA is not in a position to contribute financially to the implementation of the MOU, given the organisation's very limited funding, all of which is project-linked. However, the SCA's commitment to the aims and implementation of the MOU has been very clearly demonstrated by its activities to date. The SCA pledges to continue to support the MOU throughout its activities, and to participate in saiga MoU meetings and to provide support to such meetings; for example through support in preparation of documents, technical advice, reporting and announcements to the saiga community.

As an international organisation representing saiga conservationists in all the range states and internationally, the SCA is in a very good position to continue to support the MOU through activities such as monitoring progress, reporting on activities and maintaining databases. An ongoing aim of the SCA is to develop a Saiga Resource Centre, which could include a monitoring and reporting component for the MOU (e.g. online project report forms, data repositories and image/video libraries). On completion of our last contract with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat (which ran from June 2007 to June 2009), we proposed continuing our role and expanding it to include this component, a framework for which already exists, and we would be very glad to carry out this work. However the continuation and expansion of our monitoring activities require ongoing modest financial support from range states, other cooperating organizations or other sponsors.

The Saiga Conservation Alliance fully supports the aims of the CMS MOU on saiga conservation and requests the honour of demonstrating this commitment through signing the MOU as a cooperating organization.

Professor E.J. Milner-Gulland
Chair, Saiga Conservation Alliance
(on behalf of the Trustees and Steering Committee)
7th August 2010

КАЗАХСТАНСКАЯ АССОЦИАЦИЯ СОХРАНЕНИЯ БИОРАЗНООБРАЗИЯ (АСБК)**Қазақстан биоалуантүрлікті сақтау ассоциациясы (ҚБСА)**

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Almaty, 17th of August 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) is a registered Non-Governmental, non-profit nature and biodiversity conservation organization in Kazakhstan with a focus on species protection, site conservation, developing a new generation of conservationists and building a network with partners involved in conservation.

ACBK was founded and registered in 2004 and then re-registered in 2009 to allow individual membership. By 31st of December 2009 ACBK had 110 members. The organization employs 27 full time staff. It has established a growing network, currently comprising 10 branches and local wildlife conservation groups, and runs conservation projects in all regions of Kazakhstan. The organization has strong links with governmental organizations, such as the Committee for Forestry and Hunting within the Ministry of Agriculture, the principal authority responsible for protected areas and nature conservation in Kazakhstan.

ACBK is intensively involved in saiga conservation in Kazakhstan since 2005. ACBK implements the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative, a large scale ecosystem conservation programme with a focus on saiga antelope and its habitat. ACBK implements this program in Kazakhstan in partnership with the Committee of Forestry and Hunting, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. ACBK also implements the project "Wildlife Management in Kazakhstan" on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the outcome 2 of the UNDP/GEF project Steppe ecosystem conservation and management in Kazakhstan. ACBK is currently also starting to implement projects on conservation of the Ural and Ustyurt populations of Saiga. ACBK aims to be actively involved in Saiga conservation on a long term and wants to state this officially.

ACBK can offer expertise and experience gained in its work with the largest population of saiga antelope. ACBK has well working networks with international partners and donors, as well as a good working relationship with partners in all the range states, including Mongolia, and can support the implementation of the MoU by liaising between different partners and stakeholders. ACBK wants to contribute to the implementation of the MoU by its long-term involvement in saiga conservation.

Herewith we ask the Secretariat of CMS and the signatories to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) to permit ACBK to sign the mentioned Memorandum of Understanding as a collaborating organization.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Olga Klimanova
 Director ACBK