

**NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT
FOR THE SAIGA ANTELOPE MOU AND ACTION PLAN**

This national reporting format is designed to monitor implementation of the [Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope \(*Saiga spp.*\)](#) and the associated [Medium Term International Work Programme](#) by the MOU Signatories. It has been endorsed by the First Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Almaty, 25-26 September 2006). Reports on implementation will support exchange of information throughout the range and assist the identification of necessary future actions by the Signatories. The format has been designed to support the needs of the Range States, the MOU and CMS. Information gathered will also support the implementation CITES Decisions [14.91 \(Rev. CoP16\)](#), [14.93 \(Rev. CoP16\)](#) & [16.95 to 16.101](#).

Please complete as appropriate and **return to the CMS Secretariat**, keeping in mind that not all sections are relevant to each State.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Range State name:

Mongolia

1.2. Designated Focal Point with responsibility to co-ordinate MoU implementation (full contact details):

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1.3. Date submitted: 15/09/2015

1.4. Period covered by the report: <u> </u> <u> </u> From 15/09/2014 to 14/09/2015
1.5. List of other agencies or NGOs that have provided input to this report: Institute of Biology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences WWF Mongolia Program Office

2. CMS MoU

2.1. Has the MoU been signed? Yes No N/A

2.2. Date signed: 10/09/2010

2.3. If the MoU has not been signed, what is the target date for signing?

3. SAIGA POPULATIONS

3.1. Are Saiga present all year or seasonally? All year Seasonal

3.2. If seasonal, list the months of occurrence [e.g., 3-10, 11-2]

3.3. Current total population estimate.

The overall result of the project is that the saiga has been saved from extinction, its numbers have increased from 2.950 in 1998 to about 14.000 animals in 2014, the range increased by 13% since 1998 and continues to extend.

3.4. Overall population trend Up Down Stable Mixed Unknown

3.5. List main subpopulations (if applicable) with estimated size and trend.

Mankhan subpopulation - isolated population with 35 individuals.

3.6. Is there a national recording system/database for Saiga? Yes No
Monitoring guideline is approved by the Scientific Council of Institute of Biology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

3.7. Name of agency/agencies maintaining records/database.
WWF Mongolia Program Office

3.8. At what intervals is the population monitored? Annually Seasonally
Ad hoc N/A

3.9. What proportion of the population is monitored?

N/A >75% 50-75% 10-49% <10% None

3.10. List agency/agencies carrying out monitoring.

WWF Mongolia Program Office and Institute of Biology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

3.11. Methods used to carry out monitoring. Aerial Ground Vehicle Mixed

3.12. If mixed, please give details by subpopulation/area.

3.13. Date of most recent monitoring effort: 23/08/2014

3.14. Does monitoring cover:

- population size? Yes No
sex/age structure? Yes No
reproductive rate? Yes No

3.15. What measures have been taken to standardise monitoring methodology with other states?

The WWF Mongolia Programme Office has requested an international expert on aerial survey (Dr. M.Norton-Griffiths) to look into the previous ground census data for saiga to develop recommendations for future census work. Following the recommendations, all 26 transects used for aerial survey were checked by ground team and adopted to ground census.

3.16. What is the status of Saiga in the national Red Data Book/Red List?

According to the international (IUCN, 2010) regional (IUCN, 2006) assessments the species is listed as critically endangered and endangered species respectively. The Mongolian saiga is also recorded in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendix II (UNEP-WCMC, 2006) and the List of globally endangered 100 species (Isaac NJB, Turvey ST, Collen B, Waterman C, Baillie JEM 2007). The species is legally protected by the Mongolian Laws on Fauna and Hunting, where its hunting is prohibited (Badam, Ariunzul, 2005) and listed as very rare species in the second edition of Mongolian Red Book (Shagdarsuren et.al., 1987; Shiirevdamba et.al., 1997 and Shiirevdamba et.al., 2013).

4. HABITAT

4.1. What proportion of Saiga habitat has been lost [0%] or degraded? [0%]

The distribution of the saiga has been expanded by 13% since 1998. A small population with over 50 individuals is constantly recorded in the northern historical range since 2013. However, we must realize that the population is still fragile given the fact that 12.000 and 120.000 saiga died in Kazakhstan in 2010 and 2015 respectively from an unknown disease. Further efforts are therefore needed to extend the species range into other suitable habitats, in particular towards the north.

4.2. What efforts have been made to restore degraded habitat and to what extent have these been successful?

Approved regulation for the use of reserve pasture that covers 434,380 ha (35.3% of the saiga habitat) disseminated to all stakeholders. Reserve pastures are kept out of mining related licenses because of its protection status of “state reserve pasture”. This allows free moving of saiga with no habitat disturbance.

4.3. Is Saiga habitat intact or fragmented?

Intact Moderately Fragmented Severely fragmented

4.4. List any significant physical barriers on Saiga migration routes: (e.g. pipelines, roads, railways, canals).

The Mongolian saiga population will be isolated **as 2 separate populations**. The planned road constructions will be in parallel with railroads in critical habitats, and will go right through the Mongolian saiga’s population.

4.5. Is the impact of proposed developments in Saiga range assessed? Yes No

4.6. How is this enforced?

Nothing to report on this issue

4.7. What percentage of Saiga range is covered by protected areas? [24.2%]

24,2% (403.057 ha) of Saiga habitat is under PA status.

4.8. List all protected areas in Saiga range, together with IUCN management category, area (hectares), seasons/months when Saiga are present, estimated number of Saiga present, and whether these include rutting/calving areas.

Name	Size (ha)	IUCN category	Months Saiga present	Estimated numbers	Rutting	Calving
Sharga-Mankhan Nature Reserve	396291	No	All year round	14000	Yes	Yes

4.9. List any other protected areas that have been proposed or identified?

Name	Size (ha)	IUCN category	Months Saiga present	Estimated numbers	Rutting	Calving
Darvi Mountain	45000	No	All year round	8000	Yes	Yes

4.10. List key areas of Saiga range lacking any protected areas.

Khuisiin gobi is one of the important habitat for saiga calving and rutting, therefore we need to protect this area.

5. POPULATIONS SHARED BETWEEN RANGE STATES

5.1 What transboundary initiatives have been taken for Saiga populations shared with neighbouring States or that migrate to other Range States?

Nothing

5.2 List any transboundary protected areas.

Nothing

5.3 List any transboundary protected areas that are planned.

Nothing

6. LAWS, INSTITUTIONS & TRADE

6.1. List Government agencies active in Saiga conservation and management and their functions related to Saiga.

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendix II (UNEP-WCMC, 2006)
- Mongolian Laws on Fauna
- Medium term international work programme for the saiga antelope (2011-2015)
- Mongolian Red Book (Shagdarsuren et.al., 1987; Shiirevdamba et.al., 1997 and Shiirevdamba et.al., 2013).

6.2. Has a national strategy or action plan for Saiga been developed? Yes No
[Details]

The national strategy on Mongolian saiga has been implemented and now we have National Program on endangered and critically endangered animals.

6.3. What is the legal status of Saiga?

Critically endangered - The species is legally protected by the Mongolian Laws on Fauna and Hunting, where its hunting is prohibited (Badam, Ariunzul, 2005) and listed as very rare species in the second edition of Mongolian Red Book (Shagdarsuren et.al., 1987; Shiirevdamba et.al., 1997 and Shiirevdamba et.al., 2013).

6.4. Provide details and references of relevant legislation.

- Law on Fauna, 2013 (*Saiga tatarica mongolica* listed as Very Rare)
- CMS Appendix II
- IUCN Critically Endangered
- Legally protected by the Mongolian Law on Fauna and Hunting where its hunting is prohibited since 1930

- Law on the Regulation of Foreign Trade in Endangered Animal and Plant Species and Derivatives Thereof, 2002
- Law on Border Crossing Quarantine Inspection of Animal and Plant Species and Derivatives Thereof, 2002

6.5. How does current legislation regulate

– The Saiga poaching cases and attempts of illegal trade of Saiga horn happen repeatedly during the last 3 years. The offenders are unknown. More focus is required to increase the involvement of local people and herders, to engage them as informants on wildlife poaching and illegal trade cases. Therefore, WWF Mongolia PO adopted a strategic approach to strengthen community based law enforcement through creating informants' network and establish close collaboration between civilians and relevant enforcement agencies e.g. General Police Authority through encouragement and motivation of people with special focus on globally and regionally endangered wildlife species.

- 6.6. Which agencies or departments are in charge of enforcing the legislation?
[Indicate those charged with *in situ* protection, e.g. anti-poaching or surveillance of protected areas, and those charged with controlling legal and illegal trade in Saiga.]

WWF Mongolia Program Office

- 6.7. What penalties are applicable for infringements of the legislation?

2 million Mongolian tugrik for individuals

- 6.8. Provide details of activities undertaken since 2004 to control legal and illegal trade in parts and derivatives of Saiga, including: controls and inspections; seizures and confiscations; and prosecutions.

WWF Mongolia established a Mobile Anti-Poaching Unit (MAPU) and a network of 11 Saiga rangers. All rangers were trained and equipped with motorcycles; radio communication, GPS, digital cameras, binoculars, field maps and uniforms. Most rangers are herders and permanently based in the Saiga range. All of them are supported by a group of volunteer rangers, which ensures a community based operation. The mobile anti-poaching unit operates throughout the Saiga range. The unit includes 2 staff equipped with a 4x4 Russian jeep, radio communication and the necessary field equipment. The unit organizes and directs the network of the rangers. The team ensures a permanent presence throughout the Saiga range, which is essential to deter poachers and mobilizes support from the local population.

Focusing to support on monitoring Saiga horn trade through CITES and building customs office capacity. The first meeting with China and Mongolia CITES Management Authority organized in late March 2011 and both Management Authority of China and Mongolia agreed to establish bilateral cooperation agreement with one year workplan (MoU) on monitoring Saiga horn trade through CITES MA and building customs office capacity for improved prevention and control of cross-border trade of saiga horn.

- 6.9. Do stocks of horns or other Saiga products exist in your country? If so, provide details on: size and nature of the stocks; source of the stocks; owners of the stocks; stock registration and monitoring system; and controls of these stocks.

No

- 6.10. What happens to confiscated parts and derivatives? Destroyed Stored
[Details]

- 6.11. Have customs and other law enforcement officers been made aware of legislation concerning Saiga? Have they received training in identifying Saiga parts and derivatives?

3 inspectors (police, custom officer and government officer) are participated to the Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species in February 2014 in

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Present at this workshop were a total of 22 participants from all ASEAN Member Countries and Mongolia.

CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species Guideline prepared, published and submitted.

- 6.12. Provide details of activities undertaken since 2004 to protect Saiga *in situ*, including: patrolling and surveying efforts; anti-poaching actions; prosecutions for poaching, etc.

The project funded by the MAVA Foundation which provided crucial support for the period 2007-2015 in the fields of law enforcement, the mobilizing of support for Saiga conservation from local populations, and the establishing of livestock free rangelands in cooperation with local decision makers and herders. The long term goal of the Saiga conservation project is to maintain and restore the Mongolian Saiga in the Great Lakes Basin and to extend its range to its former habitats. The short-term goal of the second phase is that by end-2013, the Saiga population in Shargiin and Khuisiin Gobi has increased by 30% compared to 2010 (baseline is 8,000 individuals according to the aerial survey).

- 6.13. What proportion of Saiga range is covered by ranger or police patrols? [60%]

- 6.14. Are these patrols effective in protecting Saiga?

As result of the close cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, the Saiga rangers' network's outstanding skills in leadership and staff management detection and arrest of illegal hunting has increased and 89.4% of the detected cases have already been decided by the provincial court.

- 6.15. What resources (personnel, material, financial) are required to ensure effectiveness of the patrols?

The saiga conservation focusses on revitalizing a more active Saiga Ranger Network and monitoring of pasture management plans in saiga range, including the establishment and monitoring of grazing reserves in Saiga core habitats. Those are believed to help to validate project's previous years' achievements and to ensure sustainability. Specific objectives of the second phase are: 1) strengthen law enforcement through improving the Saiga Ranger Network and develop other law enforcement measures as recommended in the evaluation carried out in 2013; 2) Ensure smooth implementation and monitoring of pasture management plans from seven soums and use of reserve pasture through supporting the environmental sustainable development units in the soums; and 3) Maintain support for Eco Clubs and consolidate clubs in key saiga habitats.

- 6.16. Do patrols cover birthing and rutting areas? Yes No Partially N/A
[Details]

The project represents one of the most effective and successful implementation of a Species Conservation Action Plan in Mongolia. Appropriate structure of saiga ranger network for an effective patrolling is in place based on identification of hot spots for saiga poaching and assessment results of rangers' performance. The Saiga ranger network is highly respected in the region. Saiga rangers become familiar with environmental conservation, conservation biology, government policy on conservation, conservation legislations, public relations, data collection, protected area management and monitoring techniques.

- 6.17. Do rangers inside and outside protected areas have the power of arrest? Yes No
[Details]

- 6.18. Why are Saiga poached? Has illegal killing of Saiga increased/decreased/stabilized over the last three years?

The species is extremely vulnerable to poaching due to its horn trade issue in Oriental Chinese Medicine.

- 6.19. What is the estimated proportion of illegal hunting for horns [100%]; for meat [0%]; or for both [0%]?

- 6.20. Provide details of the domestic legal/illegal market for Saiga products in your country, indicating its size and nature, and whether it is growing, stable or declining.

The Saiga poaching cases and attempts of illegal trade of Saiga horn happened repeatedly during the last 3 years. The offenders are unknown. More focus is required to increase the involvement of local people and herders, and to engage them to become as informants on wildlife poaching and illegal trade cases. Therefore, WWF Mongolia PO adopted a strategic approach to strengthen community based law enforcement through creating informants' network and establish close collaboration between civilians and relevant enforcement agencies e.g. General Police Authority through encouragement and motivation of people with special focus on globally and regionally endangered wildlife species.

- 6.21. Provide details of the legal and illegal international trade in Saiga products from your country during the last five years.

2 poaching cases of 16 saiga were discovered by the Saiga ranger network with assistance of local informants. Unfortunately, no committers were detected, despite joint tracking and inspection with the police was conducted. The cases are under investigation by the police office at local level. As a result of active partnership between the SRN and local law enforcement agencies such as Aimag Police, State Specialized Inspection Agency and Environmental Protection Agency, 76 saiga horn trade case is revealed in 2013 (Annex 3) which is the great result in cooperation of stakeholders for the saiga conservation. Furthermore, pending case of illegal trade of 76 saiga horns is revisited by the provincial court in July and October, 2014, thanks to continued pressure from the leader of saiga ranger network. The poachers were sentenced from 3 years and 5 days to 3 years and 5 months imprisonment and fined with 82,170,000 MNT (39125 Euro). The fact that the poachers were unable to sell the horns could indicate that the market for Saiga horn is becoming more and more difficult.

Public information is important to combat with poaching and trading derivatives of wildlife. So that, the information provided by ingenious people has helped policemen to detain offenders intending to sale 162 horns of Saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*). The ten young men aged 20-30 years are suspected in relation to crime occurred in October 2014. Police reported that offenders accepted the crime on illegal transportation of horns from Russian Federation and their plans were

to sell them to China. To take an opportunity, it is important to note that crime against nature and environment is getting more complex and more organized, which has negative impact on wildlife conservation. To tackle this challenge, WWF-Mongolia PO signed Memorandum of Understanding with State Investigation Department and National Criminal Police Agency. With the implementation of this agreement the detection of crime and criminal networks of poachers will become more effective.

6.22. Give details of any socio-economic surveys carried out concerning poaching of and illegal trade in Saiga. [details, institution, date, results].

Nothing

6.23. List any problems in implementing aspects of CITES relating to Saiga.

6.24. Describe initiatives undertaken to facilitate alternative livelihoods in communities within Saiga range.

7. CAPTIVE BREEDING

7.1. Does your country operate capture breeding facilities? Yes No N/A

7.2. List existing captive breeding facilities [locality, name, managing agency].

7.3. How many Saiga are held in total and at individual centres?

7.4. Is reproduction successful? Yes No
[Details]

7.5. Give details of any co-operation with captive breeding facilities in other states?

7.6. Have any captive-bred animals been transferred to other range states? Yes No
[Details]

7.7. Have any captive bred animals been released into the wild? Yes No
[number/sex/date/locality]

7.8. Are released animals subject to monitoring? Yes No
N/A
[Details]

7.9. Are any releases planned? Yes No
[Details]

7.10. Are any new captive breeding centres planned? Yes No
[Details]

8. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

8.1. Describe the public's awareness regarding Saiga.

In order to strengthen Saiga conservation, enhanced knowledge is needed on their biology and ecology which plays a key role in integrating Saiga conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Long term activities for providing more information on the species and determining the carrying capacity of rangeland are needed. The priority study is to collar adult saiga to determine the movement of saiga and home range.

In view of recent increases of the Saiga population, restoring the Mongolian Saiga population is needed by starting a captive breeding program, associated with other conservation measures such as strengthening of law enforcement, establishing livestock free habitats, enhancing public awareness and conservation education.

Involvement of youth and herders through establishing a network of informants are critical to support measures against illegal trade activities.

8.2. Describe educational and publicity materials and programmes that have been developed for:

Schools

General public

Press and Media

8.3. Is any information available on the Internet? Yes No
[Details]

8.4. List any surveys carried out to assess changes in public attitudes to Saiga.

9. ECOLOGICAL STUDIES

9.1. Have any studies been carried out on habitat requirements? Yes No
[Details]

9.2. Is the location of rutting and calving grounds known? Yes No
[Details]
3 important area for breeding and calving is identified

9.3. Are migration routes known? Yes No
[Details]

9.4. Have any studies into dietary competition with domestic livestock been undertaken? Yes
 No
[Details]

9.5. Has any research into disease and pathogens been carried out? Yes No
[Details]

9.6. List any recent and ongoing ecological studies, with details of reports or publications.
Yes No
[Details]
Monitoring of saiga population

9.7. Are the causes of natural mortality understood? Yes No
[Details]

9.8. What are the main natural predators?

Golden eagle, red fox and corsac fox

9.9. Are there any predator control programmes in the Saiga's range? Yes No
[Details]

10. THREATS

Rate the impact of the main threats to Saiga in your country

	Nil	Low	Medium	High	Very high	Unknown
Hunting for meat						
Hunting for horns/trade						
Habitat loss						
Livestock competition						
Disease						
Climate						
Climate						
Predation						
Fragmentation						
Demographic factors						
Barriers to migration						
Other (Please specify)						

11. ACTION

Which priority measures to conserve or restore Saiga does your country wish to take in the next 5 years?

Specific objectives of the saiga conservation are: 1) strengthen law enforcement through improving the Saiga Ranger Network and develop other law enforcement measures as recommended in the evaluation carried out in 2013; 2) Ensure smooth implementation and monitoring of pasture management plans from seven soums and use of reserve pasture through supporting the environmental sustainable development units in the soums; and 3) Maintain support for Eco Clubs and consolidate clubs in key saiga habitats.

12. OTHER MEASURES

Please provide details of any other country-specific actions taken that have not been covered yet.