



**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, 19-22 October 2020

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE BUKHARA DEER (2021-2026)**

## WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE BUKHARA DEER (2021-2026)

**Overall goal:** To restore and maintain Bukhara Deer populations in a favourable conservation status throughout their range.

	Measures to be taken	Urgency <sup>1</sup>	Responsibility <sup>2</sup>
<b>Range-wide measures</b>			
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Maintain and restore habitat</b>		
1.1	Examine and evaluate the management of existing nature reserves with Bukhara Deer populations to identify and address problems and improve management effectiveness.	1	
1.2	Provide financial and technical support for the management of Bukhara Deer nature reserves.	2	
1.3	Consider establishing additional protected areas as well as ecological networks and corridors, which enable deer to migrate and expand their range ( <b>see also country-specific measures -7.1, 8.2,9.1,10.2</b> ).	2	
1.4	Improve conditions for Bukhara Deer to move outside of protected areas through integrative land use planning, reforestation and conflict prevention measures to increase acceptance of deer in local communities.	2	
1.5	Consider providing deer in protected areas with winter feeding during harsh weather conditions as well as access to water in order to avoid habitat degradation and overgrazing of the areas.	2	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Reduce mortality</b>		
2.1	Improve anti-poaching measures inside and outside of protected areas, including in transboundary areas through improved cooperation with and between border guards of relevant countries.	2	
2.2	Provide training and capacity-building for rangers and the staff of protected areas.	3	
2.3	Provide technical support to improve anti-poaching activities and monitoring, including installation of photo-traps in Bukhara Deer habitat to detect poachers.	1-2	
2.4	Introduce and implement the SMART technology in the system of patrolling and monitoring in Bukhara Deer protected areas.	3	

<sup>1</sup> Urgency: 1 - Urgent (crucial for preventing population extirpation, immediate within 1-2 years). 2 - Important (necessary for stabilisation of numbers, medium-term within 3-5 years). 3 - Useful (will contribute to population restoration, medium-term within 5 years).

	Measures to be taken	Urgency <sup>1</sup>	Responsibility <sup>2</sup>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Participation of local communities in conservation activities</b>		
3.1	Develop socio-economic and community-based activities, including ecological education, alternative forms of income generation for local communities and enhance sustainable natural resource use and prevent illegal logging, illegal cattle grazing inside of protected areas, overgrazing and poaching.	2	
3.2	Working with the media (at the regional, state and local level) to raise awareness about the problems of Bukhara Deer conservation and restoration.	3	
3.3	Develop ecotourism in the protected areas with involvement of local communities, using reintroduction sites and captive facilities as well as guided tours.	3	
3.4	Develop options for deer antler farming under consideration of technical requirements, types of territories, business plans, legal conditions and in close consultation and participation of local communities.	3	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Scientific research</b>		
4.1	Conduct scientific research and population monitoring throughout the species range, including on genetics, diseases, migrations and competition with livestock.	2	
4.2	Monitor the development of reintroduced groups of animals.	1	
4.3	Organize consultations, expeditions, study tours and monitoring among Bukhara Deer experts and practitioners to facilitate information and knowledge exchange.	3	
4.4	Provide training for the staff of protected areas on monitoring methods in cooperation with leading scientific institutions.	2	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Enhance international cooperation</b>		
5.1	Improve and harmonize legal mechanisms to protect transboundary migrations of Bukhara Deer ( <i>see country-specific measures – 8.2, 9.1</i> ).	2	
5.2	Provide centralized coordination and information exchange among Signatories and all stakeholders.	1	
5.3	Strengthen international cooperation and information exchange <i>inter alia</i> by implementing special conservation measures for transboundary populations in the middle Amudarya in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan; the upper Amudarya of Afghanistan and Tajikistan; Zarafshan in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan; Syrdarya in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.	1	
5.4	Publish the list of CMS National Focal Points and leading national Bukhara Deer experts for each Signatory/Range State on the CMS website.	1	

	Measures to be taken	Urgency <sup>1</sup>	Responsibility <sup>2</sup>
5.5	Organize regular meetings of the Bukhara Deer Range States in line with and in the frame of meetings of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI).	3	
5.6	Complete joint surveys and Bukhara Deer census in transboundary areas, between Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan; as well as between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.	2	
5.7	Improve legal mechanisms to ensure safe transboundary migrations of Bukhara Deer as well as training and cooperation with border guards and customs.	1	
5.8	Raise funds for conservation programmes and develop comprehensive project proposals, both at country level and for transboundary populations, for submission to appropriate funding schemes and donors.	1	
5.9	Develop and agree on bilateral agreements and transboundary protected areas management plans.	2	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Captive Breeding and Reintroduction</b>		
6.1	Conduct an inventory of deer habitat, which is suitable to support deer populations to facilitate the expansion of the animal's range.	1	
6.2	Further enhance existing reintroduction programmes, especially outside the main Amudarya River valley ( <i>see country-specific measures - 7.3, 7.4, 8.4, 8.5, 10.4</i> ), to ensure the survival of deer in case of local ecological disasters in populations and population declines.	1	
6.3	Use best practices available and methodological guidelines for planning practical reintroduction activities. <sup>3</sup>		
6.4	Establish reserve groups of the species in isolated areas (for example, to replicate the successful experience of Tajikistan in other territories), including consider the development of deer farms.	3	
<b>Country-specific measures</b>			
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
7.1	Develop the protected area system in the riparian forests of Syrdarya in accordance with the officially approved Government plans.	1	
7.2	Implement reforestation programmes in natural habitats (in Ili-Balkhash, Syrdarya).	1	

<sup>3</sup> E.g. "Technical guidelines for restoration and reintroduction of the Bukhara deer in its natural environment"

<https://wwf.ru/en/resources/publications/booklets/technical-guidelines-for-restoration-and-reintroduction-of-the-bukhara-deer-in-its-natural-environment/>

	Measures to be taken	Urgency <sup>1</sup>	Responsibility <sup>2</sup>
7.3	Develop and implement a programme for Bukhara deer reintroduction in the Ily-Balhash Reserve including translocation, adaptation and release of about 200 animals from Karatchingil to Ily-Balhash in five years.	1	
7.4	Consider reintroducing Bukhara Deer in a number of potential sites, which have already been evaluated as suitable, namely in the game management entity “Manul”, National Nature Park Altyn-Emel, Ily river, “Kyzyltau” Baijurkum forestry (Syrdarya, Kyzyl-Orda), Arysskii district of Southern-Kazakhstan oblast.	2	
7.5	Develop ecotourism in Ily-Balhash, Syrdarya.	3	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Tajikistan</b>		
8.1	Implement measures to prevent the degradation of Bukhara Deer habitat by building dams to prevent extreme floods, establish fire-prevention measures, facilitate regular water supply of the ecosystem in an optimal mode by building a pumping station and clearing canals if necessary (Zeravshan, Tigrovaja Balka).	1	
8.2	Establish a system of ecological corridors and buffer zones in the upper reaches of Vakhsh along the border with Afghanistan.	2	
8.3	Identify in the Parkhar region <b>disturbance factors</b> and the level of forage resources competition with livestock, which affect the population growth.	2	
8.4	Build on the reintroduction activities in Ramit including through breeding, releases, winter feeding and monitoring of deer.	1	
8.5	Build on the initially successful reintroductions of Bukhara Deer in the 1970s in Sarikhosor and Dashtijum by preparing adaptation pens, conducting translocation of deer, releasing and monitoring of deer.	2	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Turkmenistan</b>		
9.1	Develop a system of ecological corridors and buffer zones in the upper and middle reaches of Amudaria to provide for the possibility of developing a transboundary Bukhara Deer population with Uzbekistan.	1	

<b>10.0</b>	<b>Uzbekistan</b>		
10.1	Implement urgent special measures for resettling a part of the Badai-tugai population to avoid further ecosystem degradation and serious risks of increased mortality.	1	
10.2	Establish new sanctuaries: Akpetki - a system of lakes and developing tugai forests in the Aral Sea region -587,710 hectares (is in process of establishment), Interfluve of Akdarya and Kazakhdarya -22,199 hectares (in process of establishment); increase of the territory of the Kyzylkum reserve in the middle reaches of the Amudarya by adding additional missives of the riparian forests, creating a buffer zone of the reserve. Establishment of the Sultanuvays Sanctuary – 45,613 hectares, Muzrabat – 8,400 hectares, the Dalverzin Forestry and Wildlife management entity – 5,360 hectares. Upper Amudarya - a site in the Termez region, a transboundary aboriginal subpopulation. Zarafshan - it is possible to increase the Zarafshan National Natural Park by the territory on the border area with Tajikistan.	2	
10.3	Conduct reforestation in natural habitats (the lower reaches of the Amudaria).	2	
10.4	Reintroduce Bukhara Deer in the Dzhangibazar and the Urgench of the recently established Khorezm National Natural Park.	2	
10.5	Develop ecotourism in the Lower Amudarya Biosphere Reserve, Zeravshan.	3	
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>		
11.1	Conduct a survey to determine the distribution, numbers, and conservation status of Bukhara Deer.	1	
11.2	Participate in and consider signing the CMS Bukhara Deer MOU.	1	