

PROJECTS REPORTING TEMPLATE FOR SAIGA-RELATED ACTIVITIES

This reporting template is designed to collate information on projects carried out by intergovernmental, international non-governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as academics and other experts working on any aspect of Saiga antelope conservation and sustainable use. Information will be compiled into a table for discussion at Saiga MOU meetings. The information will be used to: (1) 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](#).

Please complete sections as appropriate and **return to the CMS Secretariat**.

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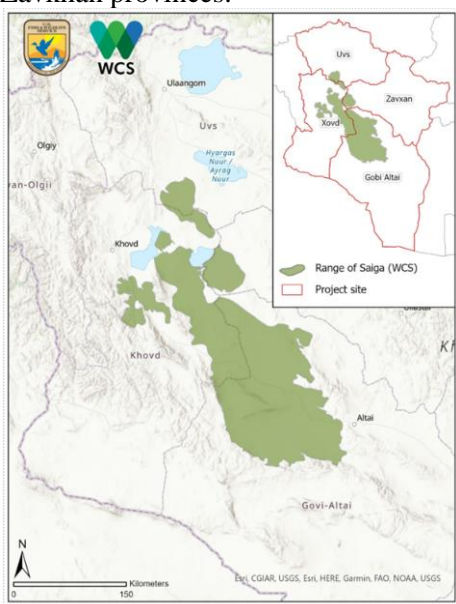
Project: Tackling saiga antelope horn sourcing and trafficking in Mongolia through an evidence-based approach to improve law and policy enforcement activities.

Country:	China	<input type="checkbox"/>	Turkmenistan	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Kazakhstan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uzbekistan	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mongolia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	International	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Russia	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Organisation / Contact details: WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society)
 WCS Mongolia Director Justine Alexander, jalexander@wcs.org

Duration of project: from 2022_09 to 2025_09

Location(s) of main activity: Mongolian saiga (*Saiga borealis*, or *Saiga tatarica mongolica*) occur in the lakes and basin region of Western Mongolia and includes parts of Gobi-Altai, Khovd, Uvs and Zavkhan provinces.



Sub-species: <i>Saiga tatarica tatarica</i> * <input type="checkbox"/>			
		<i>Saiga tatarica mongolica</i> *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Areas of work:			
Anti-poaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	Habitat restoration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Population monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	Protected area management	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ecological research	<input type="checkbox"/>	Training & capacity-building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Education and awareness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Law enforcement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alternative livelihoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economic research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Captive breeding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Range mapping	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reintroduction/release	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat research	<input type="checkbox"/>		
For each box ticked, please provide brief details in the project summary box below			
<p>Project Summary: The goal of this project, via the proposed activities, is to foster an evidence-based approach to improve the implementation of laws and policies to disrupt the sourcing and trafficking of saiga horns in Mongolia.</p> <p>Training and capacity-building: The training aim is for enforcement leaders to improve the performance and impact of their agencies in protecting wildlife in Mongolia through the application of an evidence-based approach. The training took place over 2 days in May 2024 and the content was provided in person by International trainers, with activities in the training venue coordinated by WCS facilitators. Trainers are Alan Baldwin (former head of the UK police force) and Rob Hoblin (former police officer) who are currently international leadership coaches. The Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (MOJHA) approved the 2023-2024 work calendar and capacity building initiatives planned in this project.</p> <p>Socio-economic research: To detect and gather more information on the Saiga horn trade, we conducted a physical market survey with business owners in Zavkhan, Uvs, Gobi-Altai, and Khovd. Additionally, the same province's households were interviewed across of saiga range of areas.</p> <p>Law enforcement: Establish a consensus for a 'Chain of Custody' of confiscated horns and develop a storage and monitoring protocol. This will be done by conducting focal point interviews with anti-poaching rangers, law enforcement officers, forensic police, and other relevant stakeholders to document the current practices in place for handling, storage, and monitoring of confiscated horns. We will also review the current legal framework that is in place for horn handling and storage to determine which agency has legal jurisdiction over horn stockpiles.</p>			
Planned Activities:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Household surveys to determine % engaged in obtaining horns from the field. 2. Online market surveillance for the saiga horn trade 3. Physical market surveys for the saiga horn trade 			

* Note that CMS Parties have adopted Wilson, D.E. & Reeder, D.M. (2005) Mammal Species of the World. A taxonomic and geographic reference. Third edition. John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, USA as taxonomic reference for terrestrial mammals through [Recommendation 9.4](#) where *S. t. tatarica* is referred to as *Saiga tatarica* and *S. t. mongolica* is referred to as *Saiga borealis*.

4. Problem-oriented policing (POP) law enforcement training
5. Chain of Custody and horn storage protocol development
6. Carcass handling and horn disposal protocol development
7. Convention implementation of the high-level workshop event

Achievements to date:

- The baseline data collection efforts are complete. This includes interviews with 854 households and surveys conducted across 26 markets (Year 1 reported).
- From November 2016 to October 2023, we compiled data from 160 sources, including Facebook groups, online market surveillance surveys, and live animal surveys. During this period, we found no advertisements for selling or purchasing saiga or their tissues and organs (Year 1 reported).
- Established a new cohort of Law Enforcement 19 Officers (Environmental and Tourism Agency, Forensic unit, Eco police, Border defense and Environmental Inspectors) (Year 1 reported).
- Completed the 2 classroom-based training (Year 1 reported only one training) and 1 online mentoring with LE Officers
- Reviewed the related laws (Criminal Code, Violations Code, and Animal and Veterinary Law) and regulations for protocol development (Year 1 reported).

Reports / Publications / Information material: The Year 1 summary report has been completed and submitted to USFWS by December 2023. Subsequent reports for Years 2 and 3 will be submitted after September 2024 and 2025, respectively. We are currently analysing data from the household survey to draft a scientific publication summarizing key findings. This article is expected to be submitted for publication within the project timeframe.

Collaborators: Ministry of Environmental and Tourism of Mongolia (MET), Coordination Council of Crime Prevention in Mongolia at the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (MOJHA), Environmental Protection and Tourism Agencies (EPTA) at each province, Khovd University, Veterinary Agency and Zoonotic Disease of Agency.

Budget available: There is no budget available for additional activities outside the scope of the proposed project. The project is on track to be completed as planned.

Current sponsors: USFWS

Past sponsors:N/A

Information contributed by: WCS Mongolia Program:

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Date report submitted: _03/07/2024_
 dd/mm/yyyy

Other:N/A