

**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](#); (2) support exchange of information throughout the range and beyond, and assist the identification of necessary future actions; and (3) support the implementation of CITES Decisions 18.270-18.274 on Saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*).

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

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<b>Project:</b>				
<b>Country:</b>	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"/>		
<b>Organisation / Contact details: Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (MNET)</b>				
<b>Duration of project:</b> from July 2019 to June 2020				
<b>Location(s) of main activity:</b> Western Mongolia, Saiga range				
<b>Sub-species:</b>	<i>Saiga tatarica tatarica</i> *	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<i>Saiga tatarica mongolica</i> *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Areas of work:</b>				
Anti-poaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Habitat restoration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Population monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protected area management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ecological research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Training & capacity-building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Education and awareness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Law enforcement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Alternative livelihoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

\* 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*.

Socio-economic research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Captive breeding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Range mapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reintroduction/release	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Habitat research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

For each box ticked, please provide brief details in the project summary box below

**Project Summary by the Mongolian Government and partnering organizations:**

The Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism (MNET) of Mongolia is one of the main four strategic ministries of Mongolia. The MNET has signed to fulfil International conventions such as CITES, CMS, CBD, Ramsar and Nagoya in order to preserve the natural resources, environmental health and the rich biodiversity of Mongolia.

MNET is supportive of environmental and biodiversity projects implemented by National and International NGO's and research institutions that are in line with the Government strategy and International conventions.

The Government of Mongolia have set an ambitious goal to preserve and protect 30% of Mongolia's territory under protection. As such annually the Government is making enormous achievements in increasing protected area size and its impact. In 2020 MNET have planned to include critical saiga range areas such as Khuisiin Gobi and Durgun Steppe under the state protection and received local government approval and this proposal is listed to be discussed by the new Parliament in 2020.

WWF-Mongolia is working in many areas of the Mongolian saiga conservation for last 2 decades. The main highlights for this year is as follows:

- A feasibility survey for the Mongolian saiga reintroduction/relocation programme is under progress. Feasibility survey is expected to be completed by end of 2020.
- Saiga ranger Network is being maintained by WWF-Mongolia. 11 saiga rangers are regularly patrolling a saiga range twice a month to deter poachers and to monitor a population status.
- Saiga ranger Network is adopting the S.M.A.R.T. patrolling system to improve the patrolling and efficiency of the resources.
- Main water sources for the Mongolian saiga is being protected and restored by WWF-Mongolia. Currently, 4 springs are fenced and protected from livestock and human effects and water outflow is drastically increased.
- Targeted awareness campaign to promote Mongolian saiga at National level was completed in spring 2020.
- Moreover, WWF-Mongolia is cooperating closely with Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia on further establishment and extension of the protected areas solely dedicated to Mongolian saiga.
- Platform for prevention of the environmental crime is established with initiative of WWF-Mongolia in 2017 and providing a coherent and efficient Law enforcement activities among Government agencies and NGO's to tackle poaching and illegal trade of Mongolian saiga and other wildlife.

WCS Mongolia Program is continuing efforts to educate local officials and communities on Saiga conservation and on disease spill over prevention efforts under the SNAPP funded "Steppe Health" project. WCS is also continuing efforts on saiga population and range monitoring efforts through the collared saiga data collection and analyses which was implemented in 2017.

**Planned Activities:**

WWF-Mongolia is planning below activities

- A feasibility survey for the Mongolian saiga reintroduction/relocation programme will be completed by end of 2020.
- Project proposal for Mongolian saiga reintroduction/relocation programme, based on feasibility survey, will be submitted to potential donors.
- Mongolian saiga reintroduction/relocation programme is planned to start in 2021
- Saiga ranger Network will be maintained by WWF-Mongolia and Saiga ranger Network continue adopting the S.M.A.R.T. patrolling system.
- At least 10 main water sources for the Mongolian saiga is planned to be restored by WWF-Mongolia and its partners in upcoming year.
- Another targeted awareness campaign is planned to promote Mongolian saiga at National level with Mongolian saiga documentary.
- WWF-Mongolia is planning to lobby on further establishment and extension of the protected areas solely dedicated to Mongolian saiga.

WCS Mongolia planned activities

- SNAPP “Steppe Health” broader stakeholder meetings in Mongolia and WG scientific meetings to share information, educate stakeholders on disease risk and train participants on multiple tools for risk assessment and on disease prevention.
- Develop disease risk mapping for saiga and wildlife
- Influence National and International policies, guidelines and documents on disease eradication, monitoring and reporting
- Raise awareness on disease threat to the already struggling population of Mongolian saiga, promote measures to decrease threats to saiga population through international conventions such as CITES to ban the saiga international trade  
Continue collared Saiga monitoring and analysis

**Achievements to date:**

- WWF-Mongolia is successfully involved in establishment of the Khomiin Tal National Park in May 2020. Khomiin Tal NP is a home to small population of the Mongolian saiga ranging around 30-50 individuals at least for last 4 years.
- A feasibility survey for the Mongolian saiga reintroduction/relocation programme is near completion.
- 2 project proposals for Mongolian saiga reintroduction/relocation programme was submitted to donors.
- Saiga ranger Network is successfully adopting the S.M.A.R.T. patrolling system in Saiga range.
- 4 springs are fenced and protected from livestock and human effects and water outflow is drastically increased.
- Mongolian saiga annual population monitoring showed that Mongolian saiga population gradually increasing for last 2 years at minimum from of 3000 individuals to 5070 individuals as of January 2020.
- WWF-Mongolia successfully raised a 3-year funding of 150,000 euro for Mongolians saiga conservation.
- WCS implemented SNAPP funded “Steppe Health” project: broader stakeholder meetings in Mongolia were organized annually the last meeting was held in Khovd province of Mongolia on June 10-13 where WCS and partners from MNET, FAO, CIRAD, RVC, GAVS, Mercy Corps, WWF, TNC have co-organized the meeting with local professional communities such as veterinary laboratory, protected area authority, environmental agency and with local herders community representation to discuss current saiga population and threats. Aftermath of the

Saiga mass mortality, future prevention and early reporting of such events and detection of high risk disease threat areas for saiga and other wildlife populations.

- Steppe Health project develop disease risk mapping for saiga and wildlife. The technical scientific WG was planning a meeting in March 2020 at NCEAS at Santa Barbara, USA to finalize the risk mapping findings and results, unfortunately due to COVID-19 we had short on-line WG meeting. The annual meeting in Mongolia was planned fall 2020 in Mongolia again due to COVID-19 postponed to 2021. This meeting's purpose is to share information, educate stakeholders on disease risk and introduce final risk assessment map findings and to discuss with stakeholders and plans to proceed further on Saiga conservation and disease preventions actions.
- WCS provided input on National and International policies, guidelines and documents on disease eradication, monitoring and reporting – WCS has organized multiple meetings with the General Authority for Veterinary Services (GAVS) of Mongolia and as a result disease outbreak response guideline especially on PPR have included wildlife monitoring as priority besides livestock focus. At International level WCS have also organized meetings with FAO and OIE and Global PPR Eradication Strategy will be updated in 2021 to include wildlife to be included in the surveillance monitoring and for eradication. This gives a heightened alert at Global level that wildlife is sensitive to the disease and may be affected therefore countries need to be vigilant and need to respond to wildlife disease and mortality making it priority.
- WCS have attended the CITES COP18 in Geneva Switzerland along with the Mongolian Government delegation and have jointly supported the Mongolian Government proposal to uplist Saiga into Appendix 1. Although this proposal was not supported by Saiga arrange state Governments, however they agreed to adopt a “zero quota” restriction for saiga on CITES's Appendix II, to which saiga were added in 1994.
- WCS hosted a “Saiga Evening” side event at the CITES COP18 in Geneva Switzerland with the Mongolian and the USA government presenting Saiga conservation issues and challenges and success stories.
- WCS have successfully captured and collared 10 adult female saiga during 13-20 May 2017, in collaboration with WWF Mongolia and Local Veterinary Offices in Gobi-Altai and Khovd provinces. Since the deployment, a total 30,140 GPS locations were collected for individuals with mean of 3,014 locations until March 2019. The size of the collared animals during this tracked period ranged between 92 and 9,660 km<sup>2</sup>, collared animals will be monitored continuously to detect any change in their range and population dynamics.

**Reports / Publications / Information material:**

Fine AE, Pruvot M, Benfield CTO, Caron A, Cattoli G, Chardonnet P, Dioli M, Dulu T, Gilbert M, Kock R, Lubroth J, Mariner JC, Ostrowski S, Parida S, Fereidouni S, **Shiilegdamba E**, Sleeman JM, Schulz C, Soula J-J, Van der Stede Y, Tekola BG, Walzer C, Zuther S, Njeumi F and Meeting Participants. Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants Virus and the Wildlife-Livestock Interface. *Front. Vet. Sci.* 2020, 7:50

Pruvot, M., A.E. Amanda, S. Strindberg, D. Batchuluun, B. Buuveibaatar, B. Chimeddorj, G. Bayandonoi, Kh. Bodisaikhan, S. Batkhuyag, N. Jamiyankhuu, J. Tserenjav, B. Batzorig, C. Hollinger, D. McAloose, S. Munkhduuren, B. Ganzorig, M. Mahapatra, M. Selvaraj, S. Parida, F. Njeumi, R. Kock, **S. Enkhtuvshin**. Outbreak of Peste des Petits Ruminants in Critically Endangered Mongolian Saiga and other wild ungulates. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 2020 Jan;26(1):51-62.

Xavier Fernandez Aguilar, Amanda E. Fine, Mathieu Pruvot, Felix Njeumi, Christian Walzer, Richard Kock, **Enkhtuvshin Shiilegdamba**. “PPR virus threatens wildlife conservation.” Science 12 Oct 2018: Vol. 362, Issue 6411, pp. 165-166

- <http://mongolia.panda.org/en/news/?uNewsID=359330>
- <http://mongolia.panda.org/en/?uNewsID=357172>
- <https://www.facebook.com/wwfmongolia/videos/244967403201919/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/wwfmongolia/videos/862485334169816/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/wwfmongolia/videos/2406135992983061/>
- <https://mongolia.panda.org/en/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=358248>
- <http://mongolia.panda.org/en/news/?uNewsID=352251>
- <https://mongolia.panda.org/en/news/?uNewsID=363290>

**Collaborators:**

- Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia
- National University of Mongolia
- WCS Mongolia
- Prague Zoo
- Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
- General Authority of Veterinary Services,
- State Central Veterinary Laboratory
- UN - Food and Agriculture Organization,
- OIE
- Royal Veterinary College,
- CIRAD,
- Tufts University,
- Mercy Corps,
- WWF Mongolia,
- TNC Mongolia,
- Khovd University,
- Khovd Veterinary Laboratory,
- Khovd Environmental Protection Agency,
- Khar Us Strictly Protected Area
- Mongol Els Strictly Protected Area
- Gobi-Altai Veterinary Laboratory,
- Gobi-Altai Environmental Protection Agency

**Budget available:**

- MNET funding 250,000\$ for PA expansion
- WWF-Netherlands: 100,000 euro
- MAVA Foundation: 16,000 euro
- WWF-Germany: approx. 10,000 euro
- WWF-Poland: approx. 10,000 euro
- WCS received SNAPP funding 200,000\$ over 3 years, ending 2021

**Current sponsors:**

- Mongolian Government
- WWF-Netherlands

