

Stakeholder Meeting on the Conservation of Large Mammals in Central Asia

23 - 25 September 2014, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Assessing gaps and needs in conserving migratory mammals in the Central Asian region

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An initiative of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. Financed and supported by the European Union within the framework of the Ecosystem Restoration in Central Asia component of the European Union Forest and Biodiversity Governance including Environmental Monitoring Project (FLERMONECA).

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Species and country selection

14 priority species were selected based on the following criteria:

i) Listed on the Appendices of CMS:

Appendix I: Bukhara/Yarkand deer *Cervus elaphus yarkandensis* (also Appx. II), wild camel *Camelus bactrianus*, wild yak *Bos grunniens*, snow leopard *Uncia uncia*, cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*

Appendix II: saiga *Saiga tatarica* and *S. borealis mongolica*, argali *Ovis ammon*, Mongolian gazelle *Procapra gutturosa*, goitered gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*, kulan *Equus hemionus*, kiang *Equus kiang*

ii) Other long-distance migrants of Central Asia not listed under CMS: chiru *Pantholops hodgsonii*

iii) Species which have transboundary populations and have more or less the same range as species listed above: Przewalski's horse *Equus caballus przewalskii*, Tibetan gazelle *Procapra picticaudata*

Countries considered included the five Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and others such as Afghanistan, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia and the Russian Federation.

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Process

- Literature research and expert consultations on species conservation status, threats, distribution/ movements, habitats, relevant stakeholders and conservation instruments in the Central Asian region
- Stakeholder survey targeting key governmental representatives, national and international non-governmental organisations, scientific institutions and experts, in the form of online questionnaires and face-to-face interviews (in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) , focusing on:
 - i) an assessment of current threats to selected species,
 - ii) current conservation measures taken, and
 - ii) gaps and needs for the conservation of migratory mammals, options for enhanced synergies, and the role of CMS



77 responses in total



39 responses from gov. rep. except the Russian Federation and
56 responses from 39 non-gov. org.

Response rate was 73% for people contacted and 81% for organisations/ institutions.

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Threats ranking

Threat	Total score
Hunting and Trade	
Illegal hunting	32
Unsustainable legal hunting	7
Illegal international trade in animals products	20
Illegal national trade in animal products	14
Habitat	
Habitat loss	28
Habitat degradation	33
Habitat fragmentation	33

0 = no threat; 1 = low threat; 2 = medium threat; 3 = high threat; 4 = critical threat; Scores are rounded.

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Threats ranking

Threat	Total score
Cause of habitat loss	
Industry and infrastructure development	24
Livestock grazing/ grazing competition	36
Agricultural conversion	11
Deforestation	5
Human presence/ disturbance	27
Cause of habitat degradation	
Overgrazing by livestock	34
Deforestation	7
Fire	8
Cause of habitat fragmentation	
Formation of habitat islands (e.g. through deforestation, human encroachment, etc.)	19
Barriers to migration (e.g. fences, heavy traveled railroads and roads, etc)	30

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Threats ranking

Threat	Total score
Climate	
Drought	25
Severe cold/ snow	20
Climate change	21
Other threats	
Disease/ mass mortality	15
Inbreeding	15
Hybridisation/ interbreeding between wild and domestic species	10
Low offspring recruitment	15
Retribution killings	12
Depletion of wild prey	8
Predation by feral dogs	11
Cause of disease/ mass mortality	
Livestock-wildlife disease transmission	15

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Threats summary

Threats receiving highest scores combined for all species were:

- Illegal hunting; illegal international trade (cheetah, snow leopard, saiga, Mongolian gazelle)
- Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation

Caused by:

- Livestock grazing (overgrazing/ grazing competition)
- Barriers to migration, e.g. border and other fences, busy railroads and roads (Mongolian gazelle, saiga, kulan, wild camel and cheetah)
- Human presence and disturbance
- Industry and infrastructure development (e.g. mining, oil and gas extraction)

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Key obstacles

- Illegal hunting and trade
- Competition with livestock and overgrazing
- Economic development/ industry and infrastructure development
- Weak law enforcement
- Insufficient transboundary cooperation and communication
- Socio-economic drivers
- Poor governance and lack of legal security
- Poor scientific knowledge on migratory mammals
- Others such as lack of political will and support, detrimental political agendas, general unsustainable environmental management and little respect for the law on all levels of society

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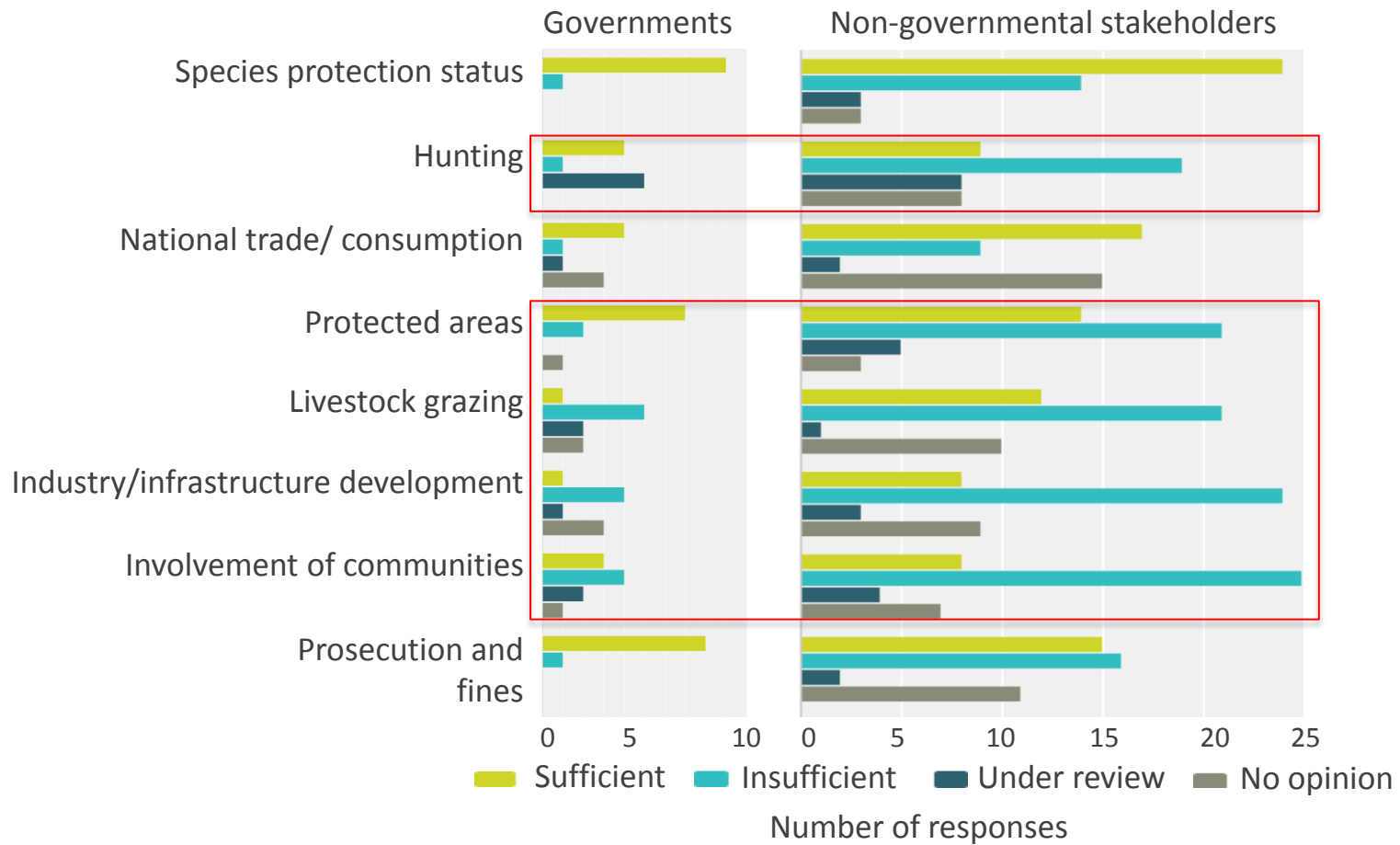
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Legal framework assessment



Successes and supporting factors

- Engagement of local communities in conservation efforts
- Good cooperation, networking and improved communication
- Increased efforts in research
- Improved/ revised and elaborated legal framework
- Increased effort and investment in targeted law enforcement
- Governmental interest and willingness to invest in conservation
- Increased public and international awareness of and advocacy for migratory mammal conservation
- Successful attempts to develop economic incentives for species conservation
- Good expertise in conservation measures and instruments available

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Options for enhanced synergies

- Enhance existing and/or establish new inter-agency communication and notification mechanisms
- Elaborate and adopt joint inter-agency working plans, including the establishment of a commission to monitor and report on their implementation
- Strengthen role of public and scientific councils in relevant state agencies
- Establish a communication platform and coordination mechanism
- Undertake joint actions
- Hold regular themed technical workshops
- Foster exchange visits between countries and exchange programmes for young academics and practitioners to study abroad
- Strengthen the role of local NGOs

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The role of CMS

- Foster transboundary dialogue
- Foster dialogue with private sector
- Prepare best practice guidelines and/ or training manuals
- Support the revision of the legal framework
- Support communication and awareness raising
- Develop an information/ data sharing mechanisms
- Develop funding mechanisms for conservation measures
- Put in place national CMS representatives
- Guidance from the CMS on the need and possibility for engagement

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Recommendations

It is recommended that the purpose of and justification for an additional instrument, such as the Programme of Work (POW) under the CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), should be to serve as a:

- i) Guiding framework to support the integration of missing aspects in already existing work programmes and action plans of the various stakeholders and initiatives
- ii) Coordination mechanism, highlighting and prioritising gaps on a regional scale
- ii) Platform for enhanced knowledge exchange and the promotion of synergies
- iii) Tool for fundraising

Presentation and discussion of findings:

- in May and June 2014 in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in order to initiate discussions on the CAMI POW,
- at the 18th Scientific Council Meeting (1-3 July 2014, Bonn, Germany)

They informed the preparation of UNEP/CMS/CAMI/Inf.2 and the draft POW presented today.

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Acknowledgments

Many individuals contributed their time and expertise to this assessment. We would like to thank everyone who responded to the questionnaires, provided valuable information during interviews and/or supported the review of species and stakeholder assessments.

Special thanks go to the GIZ ERCA Coordinators who critically supported the stakeholder consultation process on the ground in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, namely Lira Joldubaeva, Dana Yermolyonok, Sabrina Ulmasova, Gulbahar Abdurasulova and Grigoriy Samoylov.

Further, we would like to thank the CMS and GIZ for constructive feedback, comments and their advice, namely Christiane Röttger (CMS), Aline Kühl-Stenzel (CMS), and André Fabian (GIZ).

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