

**Information
on realization of Convention on Migrating Wild Animals conservation (CMS, Bonn
Convention) in the Republic of Tajikistan**

Tajikistan ratified Bonn Convention in 2000. The working group on Convention realization was established and Convention coordinator was appointed. In contrast to the Convention on biodiversity conservation, this Convention realization does not include the elaboration of National Action Plan and in general it is developed in the frame of Memorandums on separate species of wild animals. Memorandum on Bukhara deer conservation is directly related to Tajikistan from the number of signed Memorandums.

Research of Bukhara deer population in the introduction areas

We conducted the monitoring of the following reserves “Dashti - Dzjum”, “SariKhosor”, “Kusavlisai”, “Zaravshanskiy” and “Ramit” for the purpose to investigate the condition of Bukhara deer population in the introduction areas during the period from September 5 to 25, 2003.

**Additional information on Bukhara deer spreading and number in their natural habitats in
Tajikistan**

Natural population of Bukhara deer (besides the reserve “Tigrovaya Balka”) is spread on the right bank of Pyandj river, on the bordering territory with Afghanistan – Moskovsky and Parkharsky districts what is testified by the words of military men of Russian frontier troops as well as local people of these bordering districts. Total livestock of Bukhara deer in Pyandj area at the end of 70-es was about 240 head of deer; bigger populations inhabited Kokul area (about 120) and Sayat area (more than 40 deer). Other areas were inhabited by the small groups of 3-8 deer (Bannikov., 1977).

In September, 2003 local people of Moskovsky district confirmed that the deer lived on the bordering territories with Afghanistan. According to military man of Russian frontier troops Yakubov Usmonali small herds of Bukhara deer (2-3 deer) as well as the antlers were found in Parkhar area.

Conclusions:

As a result of conducted investigation, we found that from all introduction areas Bukhara deer kept safe only in “Zaravshansky” reserve. There is a possibility that the deer continues to live in small number in flood-lands of Pyanj river on the sectors of 12 and 11 frontier posts. Total number of deer in the introduction areas does not exceed 50-55 deer, 24-26 of which live in “Zaravshansky” reserve and approximately the same number live in Sari-Khosor.

Suggestions:

- In view of situation stabilization in the Republic of Tajikistan and nature protection activity strengthening we think that it is very important to recommence introducing Bukhara deer into “Dashti - Dzjum” and “SariKhosor” reserves.

- It is necessary to elaborate the cooperation program on Bukhara deer conservation between “Zaravshansky” reserve (Tajikistan) and Zaravshansky reserve in Uzbekistan.
- To establish deer farm on the base of Shakhrinavsky nursery where there are nine Bukhara deer. The farm will contribute to both deer conservation and financing of Bukhara deer population conservation and support programs in Tajikistan. For this purpose several deer should be brought into the nursery from other reserves.
- Investigation and evaluation of Bukhara deer population in natural habitats outside “Tigrovaya Balka” reserve should become one of the main objectives in the further work.
- In the frame of Memorandum on Bukhara deer signed in Dushanbe between Convention Secretariat, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Uzbekistan, Republic of Turkmenistan, Republic of Kazakhstan and International Wild World Fund (WWF), WWF office in Moscow supported a number of projects aimed at supporting and conservation of “Tigrovaya Balka” reserve. List of the projects:

WWF Participation in grants over Tajikistan:

1998 – technical support of “Tigrovaya Balka” reserve: bicycles, field glasses, working clothes, plates and dishes and bed linen for cordons.

Project executor – NGO “Fund Kukhiston”, Blagoveshenskaya S.T.

1998-2000 - technical support of “Tigrovaya Balka” reserve: accumulators for fire-engines, camera and camcorder.

Project executor – NGO “Fund Kukhiston”, Blagoveshenskaya S.T.

2001 – renewal of “Tigrovaya Balka” museum building.

Project executor – NGO “Nature Protection Unit”, Abdurakhimova F.

2002 – trainings on ecoeducation for pupils and students living near “Tigrovaya Balka” reserve.

Project executor – NGO “Fund Kukhiston”, Blagoveshenskaya S.T.

2003 – working out of stained-glass windows in the new museum of “Tigrovaya Balka” reserve.

Project executor – NGO “Fund Kukhiston”, Blagoveshenskaya S.T.

2004 – ecological camp for pupils living near “Tigrovaya Balka” reserve. Repairing of “Tigrovaya Balka” reserve cordons.

Project executor – NGO “Fund Kukhiston”, Blagoveshenskaya S.T.

2005 – Republican ecological camp for pupils and students of Varzob valley in protected areas.

Project executor – NGO “Fund Kukhiston”, Blagoveshenskaya S.T.

2006 – International Youth Ecological Forum on Protected areas. 9 CIS republics took part in the Forum.

Work on water problems of the reserve: clearing of channels between lakes, constructing of bridge over the channel.

Project executor – NGO “Fund Kukhiston”, Blagoveshenskaya S.T.

2007 – Complex managing of ‘Vakhsh’ river basin and managing of “Tigrovaya Balka” reserve nature. Project executor – NGO “Fund Kukhiston”, Blagoveshenskaya S.T., NGO “Protected areas support and development center”, Safarov N.M., NGO “Nature Protection Unit”, Abdurakhimova F.

**Report of National Convention Coordinator Latifi A.O. on migrating species (CMS)
Convention parties meeting in Nairobi (Kenya), November 17 – 27, 2005.**

1. Goal:

Presentation of Republic of Tajikistan at the meeting of the Convention parties.

2. Participants:

Parties of the Convention (95 countries), internationalecological NGOs

3. Results:

A number of documents including Agreement on Asian bustard (houbara) were discussed at the meeting. Memorandum on saiga was signed.

At present in the frame of the Convention two memorandums concerning Central Asia were signed: on Bukhara deer (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, WWF) and on saiga (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, WWF). Besides, Agreement on houbara is almost ready.

National coordinator together with minister of nature protection of Turkmenistan Mr. Akmuradov R.K. had a meeting with the Convention secretary Mr. Robert Hapford on Convention activity strengthening in Central Asia. The issues of additional source of financing on Bukhara deer memorandum realization were considered. The possibility of CA countries support of the Agreement on Central Asian migrating route was discussed.

The Convention secretary expressed his desire to visit Central Asia, to meet with CA Convention Coordinators and to present the Agreement on houbara and migrating route as well as memorandum on saiga to the ministers of nature protection of CA countries.

4. Conclusions:

It is necessary to strengthen the joint work with CMS Secretariat and to sign the agreement on houbara. Tajikistan can play the leading or important role in the realization of Memorandum on Bukhara deer signed within the Convention. The issue of financial resources increasing in the field of Memorandum realization is under discussion in WWF. To take active part in selecting process of CA agreement signing on: CA migrating route or African and European migrating route.

REPORT

On participation in the Conference on discussing and approving of Action Plan over Central Asian migrating route on conservation of the migrating water birds and their habitats

Delhi, India, June 10-13, 2005

The representatives of 23 countries of Central Asian migrating route took part in the meeting organized by the Convention Secretariat on Migratory Species (CMS) together with the UNEP program and government of India. Among them there were official delegations of nature protection institutions from all 5 countries of Central Asian region, 2 Caucasus countries (Azerbaijan and Armenia) and Russia. Also, the Secretariat of Afro-Eurasian Agreement on migratory species of water birds was presented as well as international and regional organizations (Wetlands International, Birdlife International, CIC – International council on hunting and gamebirds, ICF – International Crane Fund) and national NGOs of India. Working language of the meeting was English with simultaneous translation into Russian.

Goal of the Conference: to discuss and consider initiatives on conservation of migratory water birds and their habitats in the regions of Central Asian migrating route. Central Asian migrating route joins several important migration routes of water birds, the most part of which stretches from the northern territories (places of nesting) to the southern winter regions in western and southern Asia. During their annual migrations birds repeatedly cross the borders of many states. The region of migrating route geographically covers 30 countries of northern, central and southern Asia and Transcaucasia. As a result of intensive human activity a lot of wetlands as well as water birds on threat of disappearance on CA migrating route thus there is a necessity to develop scientific coordination between CAF countries what would allow regulating of biological resources of wetlands at the international and regional levels and providing of water birds conservation in the countries of migrating routes.

Objectives:

1. Discussion and suggestions on action plan development over CA migrating route;
2. To establish relations, coordination and cooperation between the countries of CA migrating route;
3. To provide regional approach to wetlands and migratory birds species conservation;
4. To define institutional mechanism for the development of CA migrating route agreement.

Goals and objectives of the Conference directly concern the development of Central Asian Initiative on Sustainable development and projects development, aimed at the introducing of ecosystem approach into the practice of local planning both at national and regional level.

Description of conducted work:

National reports and proposals on CA migrating route were presented in the course of the conference; CAF Action Plan for migratory water birds and their habitats conservation was discussed and elaborated; participants actively discussed institutional structure of further Agreement development.

Three variants were considered:

1. To broaden AEBA geographical territory to include CA migrating route and join Action Plan on CA migrating route for water birds into the jurisdiction of the Agreement;
2. To work out new agreement for CA migrating route region under the Convention on migratory species. CA Action Plan on water birds will be a part of the agreement;
3. To join the Action Plan to Asian-Pacific Strategy on conservation of migratory water birds species.

During the discussion of issues on further institutional development of CA migrating route, countries' opinions and international organizations representatives' points of view were considered. After possibilities defining and presentations on each possible development variant the most part of countries supported the development within AEWA region. AEWA already includes 16 out of 30 countries situated in the CA migrating route region that is why the inclusion of the whole region can be easily realized and will not demand a lot of time. All those issues were expressed and discussed in the course of three days' discussion. Though, a clear decision on further institutional development was not taken and this issue is not solved yet.

During 2007 several invitations for participation in the meetings were received. But a part of them was beyond Tajikistan interests and we did not take part in the meetings. Convention Coordinator maintains contacts with Bonn Convention Secretariat as well as with working groups on Convention realization on biodiversity conservation and wetlands Convention in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Convention Coordinator in Tajikistan



A. Latifi