

**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/SA-2/Inf/14
12 August 2010

Original: English

SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING
CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE
USE OF THE SAIGA ANTELOPE (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*)
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 7-10 September 2010

**PROGRESS TOWARDS THE FULFILMENT OF THE CMS MEDIUM TERM
INTERNATIONAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE SAIGA ANTELOPE (FOR
THE PERIOD OCT 2006-OCT 2008)**

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A document prepared for the CMS Secretariat by the Saiga Conservation Alliance

Background

The first meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Migratory Species' Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 25th-26th September 2006. The meeting was co-sponsored by CITES and CMS. It was preceded by a Technical Meeting facilitated by IUCN - the World Conservation Union (Antelope Specialist Group and Sustainable Use Specialist Group), which produced a draft Overview Report on the status of the saiga antelope and a Medium Term International Work Programme (MTWP) for 2007-2011, to support the implementation of the MOU. These documents were adopted with minor amendments during the meeting itself, and are available at the CMS website. The meeting envisaged that the MTWP would be reviewed at the second Meeting of the Signatories to the MOU.

The Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA), through Imperial College London, is contracted by CMS to monitor progress towards fulfillment of the MOU on saiga conservation, for the period 2007 to 2009. This includes developing a database of individuals and institutions with interests in saiga conservation; maintaining and updating the database on saiga conservation projects relevant to the implementation of the MTWP; and communicating progress made towards the implementation of the MTWP to interested parties, both through the SCA website www.saiga-conservation.com and through 6-monthly reports in the SCA's newsletter *Saiga News*.

Ideally, the second Meeting of Signatories to the MOU should have taken place 2 years after the first meeting, i.e. in September 2008. However, circumstances prevented this meeting taking place. However the SCA was holding its annual meeting in Almaty at the end of October 2008, as well as a technical meeting exchanging best practice in saiga monitoring, sponsored by the Royal Society of London. The CMS generously sponsored the travel costs of some of the participants in these meetings, in order to take advantage of this gathering of key saiga experts to carry out an interim assessment of progress towards the fulfilment of the MTWP. The meeting was open to all, including representatives of government, management authorities, NGOs and academic institutions. The aim was to consider progress against each of the action points in the MTWP, to highlight areas where progress was substantially lacking and to discuss strategies for improving the implementation of the MOU.

This document constitutes the output from this meeting. It is planned that it will form a key contribution to the technical documentation for the next Meeting of Signatories to the MOU.

A summary of progress and recommendations for additional actions forms the main body of the report. Annex 1 gives the detailed information on actions undertaken, against the individual action points in the MTWP. Annex 2 is a participant list.

Focus of the meeting

Given that the MTWP was adopted two years ago, in September 2006, the expectation should be that action on the A1 priorities¹ identified in the MTWP should already have commenced. Hence the meeting focussed on reporting progress for these priorities. If there had been no progress, it was evaluated whether this was because the action was no longer an A1 priority, or whether a concerted effort was needed to prioritise this action in the run-up to the next CMS Meeting of Signatories to the MOU.

Other actions with no progress (either overall, or for a particular country) were also reviewed, in order to determine the barriers to progress, how these barriers could be overcome during the period of the current MTWP (by 2011), whether the priority status of the action needed to be updated, and if so, why.

If there had been progress on an action, the meeting considered whether that progress was adequate and appropriate, and what additional measures need to be undertaken in the next 2-3 years in order to fulfil the MTWP for this action point.

During the meeting it was also emphasised that any new information that arises subsequent to this report should be communicated to the SCA using the appropriate report form (available online on the SCA website or from the Secretary, E. Bykova). This will ensure that the information available to the participants of the next Meeting of Signatories to the MOU is as comprehensive as possible.

Summary of progress and recommendations

This is a brief summary of the degree of progress made in each key area of the MTWP, which is supplemented by a detailed commentary at Annex 1. Recommendations for key further actions by stakeholders including the CMS Secretariat, donors, governments, management authorities and scientists are also given.

Range-wide measures

1. Implementation: Some steps have been made towards effective MOU implementation but these are patchy between countries. Russia is yet to sign the MOU, but the signs are promising. Communications are generally working well. The establishment of a coordination mechanism would greatly help to facilitate further progress. There has been a suggestion that the Association for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of Kazakhstan would be a suitable host for this mechanism, which we strongly support.

2. Anti-poaching: Although there has been investment in anti-poaching activities in all countries, progress remains patchy and largely uncoordinated, and funding is still inadequate. No country yet has a fully developed plan for allocation of anti-poaching effort to particular issues or areas, which would enable strategic decisions to be made. Poaching is still a key threat to the species and so further efforts are urgently required.

3. Sustainable use and trade: There has been very little progress under this theme, and a worrying lack of engagement which needs urgent attention.

4. Human factors: There has been further research carried out on attitudes to saigas. Small-scale alternative livelihood and incentive programmes have been trialled, but they are at the

¹ A1 = Action is Urgent (crucial for preventing population extirpation) and Immediate (1-2 years). See Annex 1 for definitions of other priority levels.

pilot stage. There is a need for large-scale and substantial engagement with local community needs if this approach is to have the required impact on poaching rates. This requires planning for sustainable rangeland use at the national level and active engagement with this agenda by the national focal points.

5. *Awareness*: There has been a lot of awareness activity in the last 2 years. This action theme is progressing well.

6. *Mapping distribution*: Although there have not been any concrete outputs yet, a number of initiatives are starting up on this theme, which should begin to bear fruit by the time of the next CMS MOU meeting.

7. *Protected areas*: There has been some progress, particularly in the Betpak-dala population and Mongolia. There is a need for more action here, but the underlying science to inform protected area placement (action point 6) is a prerequisite for effective siting of protected areas. Hence there is a need to proceed with caution to ensure that sound science informs decision-making on this theme.

8. *Monitoring*: Monitoring programmes are continuing and there have been some new initiatives (e.g. participatory monitoring). However it is concerning that there has still not been a robust count using the most up-to-date methods in any population. There is greater awareness of the issues surrounding current approaches to saiga monitoring, but there is a need to move forward to integrate these insights into ongoing, coordinated monitoring programmes. This is particularly important as the assessment of the degree to which the Overall Goal of the MTWP has been achieved requires the development of a robust monitoring programme.

9. *Captive breeding*: No major breakthrough has occurred under this heading. The Centre for Wild Animals in Kalmykia is developing well, and a feasibility plan has been carried out for Mongolia.

Population-specific measures

10. *North-west Pre-Caspian*: There has been much impressive conservation activity, but progress is hampered by political and administrative uncertainties and a lack of ongoing large-scale financial support from government; the activities are carried out on short-term project funds.

11. *Ural*: This population is still suffering from relative neglect. There is no specific conservation project aimed at this population, and a lack of information about the status of the population and particularly about human factors. Some scientific monitoring is being carried out, which suggests that the population is stable. There is also government-funded anti-poaching activity in the area. However it is a high priority to establish a conservation presence in this area.

12. *Ustiurt*: This population is of very high concern due to the high level of poaching that appears still to be ongoing, and the apparent continued population decline (the only population in which declines are still being reported). There is a lack of knowledge about population status (and particularly movement ecology) and there is no current conservation project addressing human factors in the Kazakhstan part of the range. There is a lot of conservation activity in Uzbekistan, mostly aimed at human factors, but a lack of major

funding to establish the required protection. This population is a priority for urgent intervention.

13. Betpak-dala: This population has benefitted from substantial investment both from government and from international and national NGOs in the last few years. These investments appear to be paying off in terms of improved population status (although without improved monitoring this cannot be established for certain).

14. Mongolia: This population is also receiving substantial investment from national and international NGOs, and its prospects are therefore considerably brighter than at the time of the last status assessment. It appears that captive breeding has been downgraded as a priority for Mongolia, in favour of increased investment in *in situ* actions. A formal review of this decision would be helpful, which could then lead into a downgrading of the relevant action points in the MTWP if appropriate.

Annex 1. Detailed breakdown of progress against MTWP measures

Long-term vision: To restore Saiga populations to the point that sustainable use can again be envisioned.

Overall goal: To halt, and where possible to reverse, the decline of Saiga populations in the next 5 years.

Assessment: The only population in which it appears that this goal is not being met is the Ustiurt population. There is an urgent need for coordinated actions to secure the future of this population.

Achievement of this goal is to be assessed through a time-series of population estimates made using appropriate methods, accompanied by an estimate of the associated uncertainty.

Assessment: Current monitoring methods are inadequate, and it will not be possible to establish whether the goal has been achieved unless there is substantial investment, based on the re-evaluation of monitoring methods which is currently being carried out..

Priority column 1: Urgency: 1 - Urgent (crucial for preventing population extirpation). 2 - Important (necessary for stabilisation of numbers). 3 - Useful (will contribute to population restoration). Priority column 2: Timescale: A - Immediate (1-2 years). B - Medium-term (5 years).

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
	<i>Range-wide measures²</i>			
1.0	Implementation			
1.1	Encourage the remaining Range States to sign the CMS MoU	1	A	Russia: Still to sign, but the signs are promising. International: The Steering Committee of the Saiga Conservation Alliance met formally for the first time in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in September 2007. One of the Committee's resolutions was to urge the Russian Federation to sign the MOU.
1.2	Develop national Saiga conservation Action Plans and integrate into NBSAPs	1	A	Kazakhstan: The Government agreed a programme on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources to 2010 (plan # 914, 08.10.07), which includes measures for saiga conservation and management, including provision for annual aerial surveys of saigas. Uzbekistan: On 23 rd November 2007 a meeting was held at Nukus between all interested parties (including government and NGOs), coordinated by the State Committee for Nature Protection of Republic of Karakalpakstan, Institute of Zoology and the SCA. This

² May also be applicable to *Saiga tatarica mongolica*.

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
				meeting developed a roadmap for implementing the MTWP in Uzbekistan, including developing a detailed action plan by the end of 2007. Order #39 of the State Nature Conservation Committee on 21 st April 2008 has included the saiga in the Red Book of Uzbekistan. The State Nature Conservation Committee has also prepared a project on development of conservation methods for the Ustiurt population for the period 2008-2011. Mongolia: An MOU was signed between law enforcement agencies on joint actions (the Soum police, rangers and Aimag courts). WWF-MN and WCS signed an MOU for joint conservation activities.
1.3	Encourage all potential partner and cooperating organisations to support the MoU and Action Plan by contributing to the implementation of the medium-term international work programme	1	A	International: A Small Grants Programme was conducted in 2007 and 2008 by the Saiga Conservation Alliance, which has given support to seven one-year projects in three range states, explicitly choosing projects that fulfilled actions specified in the MTWP, and funded by WCN. A database of projects exists, and is being added to from information submitted to the SCA. Mongolia: The MAVA foundation has made a substantial grant to support saiga conservation over the next 3 years (from September 2007), to be implemented by a consortium of government bodies and NGOs, coordinated by WWF-Mongolia. Uzbekistan: A coordinating committee for implementation of the MoU was proposed within the framework of the MTWP; a working program of urgent measures aimed at the conservation of saiga antelopes for the period of 2006 to 2010 was outlined.
1.4	Establish special Saiga conservation authorities in Range States to coordinate conservation efforts and promote cooperation between all stakeholders and ensure sustainable funding	1	B	See notes in 1.2
1.5	Encourage the Saiga research and conservation community to regularly exchange project information and progress reports through the e-bulletin <i>Saiga News</i> and a future on-line reporting facility and e-library	2	A	International: The publication of <i>Saiga News</i> by the SCA was supported in 2006-2008 by the Convention on Migratory Species, INTAS, the Darwin Initiative, the Wildlife Conservation Network, Frankfurt Zoological Society and WWF-Mongolia. The Convention on Migratory Species is supporting the collation of information about progress towards MTWP implementation through a 2-year grant to Imperial College London, starting on 1 st July 2007. The most recent issue of <i>Saiga News</i> , issue 7 was published in July 2008, and is currently available in 4 languages. It contains a summary of progress towards the fulfilment of the MTWP, with the full report on the SCA website.
1.6	Consider extending the MoU to include the whole species	2	B	International: It is hoped that the Mongolian sub-species will be included in the MOU the end of 2009.
1.7	Consider establishing an international coordination	3	B	The Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan has offered to fulfil

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
	mechanism for the MoU to support implementation			role.
1.8	Designate national MoU focal points responsible for liaison with counterparts in other Range States and with co-operating organisations, and improve exchange of information and technical expertise on Saiga conservation	3	B	The CMS Secretariat holds a list of the national focal points.
1.9	Encourage the Range States, Mongolia and China, to conclude bilateral cooperative agreements on matters of mutual interest to support the MoU's implementation	2	B	Kazakhstan & Uzbekistan: In February 2008, a plan for joint activities towards the conservation of the Ustiurt saiga population was agreed between the Governments of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, for the period 2008-2010.
2.0	Anti-poaching			
2.1	Develop national anti-poaching strategies in order to maximise effectiveness of patrol deployment	1	A	Kazakhstan: A plan of measures has been adopted for 2008-2010, under resolution No. 914 of the Kazakhstan government of October 2007, focussed on the sustainable management and protection of natural resources; rare ungulate species (including saigas) have a budget of \$1.54 million per year. However a strategic plan for deployment of anti-poaching efforts has not yet been developed.
2.2	Fund anti-poaching units for the protection of all Saiga populations in all Range States	1	A	Kazakhstan: Ongoing anti-poaching work is being carried out by Okhotzooptom, under the auspices of the Committee for Forestry and Hunting, with support from the Government of Kazakhstan as well as the NGOs ACBK (Altyn Dala region; since April 2008) and Ak-Boken (Kzl-Orda region). In the winter of 2008, at least 6 poaching incidents were detected in the area of the Betpak-dala saiga population. Mongolia: The community-based ranger team is well equipped and now receives good salaries for its members and funds for petrol and motorbike maintenance. It has 10 motorbikes, 2 vehicles with radios, Soum-based inspectors, and other key equipment. It is operating very effectively. The new Mobile Anti Poaching Unit operates highly effectively throughout the saiga range with 2 staff with 4x4s and field equipment. The "Irves-3" team detected the poaching of a female Saiga and three Wild asses in November 2007, as well as one Snow leopard in March 2008. All cases are under investigation by the police. Russia: Ongoing anti-poaching work has been carried out in the pre-Caspian region by the Hunting Department of the Republic of Kalmykia, as well as the Chernye Zemli Biosphere Reserve and Stepnoi Reserve, Astrakhan region. This includes checks on farmsteads around the Stepnoi reserve for compliance with firearms regulations. The Stepnoi Reserve has received a grant from IFAW for the period Mar-July 2008, to support anti-poaching and awareness-raising activities. Joint anti-poaching activities have been carried out by the Game Department of Kalmykia, the Chernye Zemli Biosphere Reserve and the Stepnoi Reserve. Uzbekistan: A new specialist inspectorate has been created for saiga protection in the

Measures to be taken		1	2	Progress made/ Comments
				Uzbekistan part of the Ustiurt population (Special Amudarya Inspectorate), with 6 men and two vehicles.
2.3	Strengthen legal systems where appropriate to ensure effective prosecution of offenders	2	B	<p>Mongolia: In October 2007, a case of poaching of 54 Saigas from 2006 was reinvestigated, and the original judges who dismissed the case were sacked. The impetus came from WWF-Mongolia.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs and the Ministry of Nature and Environment has agreed on a joint campaign on crime prevention throughout Mongolia.</p> <p>WWF Mongolia elaborated conservation-oriented amendments to the Hunting Legislation, on behalf of the Mongolian Government, together with WCS and other NGOs. These were accepted by the Ministry for Environment and sent to the parliament for approval</p> <p>Russia: Two poachers were arrested and prosecuted in Kalmykia in March 2007, and there have been interceptions of smuggled horns in Russia, Taiwan and Kazakhstan. As of January 1st 2008, responsibility for anti-poaching, management and nature conservation has been decentralised to the regions. This has caused administrative difficulties which have yet to be resolved. Kalmykia has instituted new laws on nature conservation. Work has commenced on a review of hunting laws of the Russian Federation.</p> <p>Kazakhstan: Higher fines and prison sentences have been instituted for saiga poaching, under law No. 1140 of the Republic of Kazakhstan from 4th September 2001, raising the penalty for harming a horned male to 200 months in prison and for a female or young animal to 150 months.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: Order #39 of the State Nature Conservation Committee on 21st April 2008 has included the saiga in the Red Book of Uzbekistan.</p>
2.4	Provide relevant training for local law enforcement officers where appropriate	2	B	<p>Mongolia: Two staff members from the Mongolian General Police Department were sent to the USA for training on combating the illegal trade in wildlife products. WWF-Mongolia carried out training for saiga rangers, inspectors and volunteers in cooperation with the State Specialized Inspection Agency and the Institute of Biology of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. WWF Mongolia with the National Committee on Crime Prevention, General Customs Office, Border Defence Force, General Police Office, CITES Authority and SSIA organized training at 4 Border points and 4 provincial centres. In addition 17 provinces were engaged in a month-long awareness raising campaign on “Improved Law Enforcement to prevent Illegal Wildlife Trade and Poaching”. WWF Mongolia and the CITES Authority produced a guide for inspectors. These training initiatives have strengthened cooperation between agencies.</p> <p>Russia: In 2007 a small grant from IFAW was received by the Stepnoi Sanctuary to support training.</p>

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
				Kazakhstan: The Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative has provided training to rangers.
3.0	Sustainable Use and Trade			
3.1	Encourage Russia and Kazakhstan to undertake action to comply with CITES recommendations so that the export moratorium can be lifted	1	A	International/Russia: In December 2007, a meeting was held in Novosibirsk, to discuss developments in international cooperation for the implementation of CITES in the Altai-Sayansk eco-region, under a UNDP/GEF project, and including representatives from CITES, customs departments, border guards and the saiga range states. This meeting discussed issues relevant to the Mongolian, Russian and Kazakhstan populations.
3.2	Set up a mechanism to facilitate the sharing of information on detected illegal trade (seizures, confiscations) involving Saiga parts and products between Range States and consumer States	1	A	No progress.
3.3	Improve compliance with CITES provisions in Saiga Range States, with a particular focus on Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan	2	A	See 3.1.
3.4	Enact and implement adequate CITES legislation, in particular in Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, to allow for full implementation and enforcement of trade control measures, and control of poaching	2	A	
3.5	Encourage countries trading in Saiga products to consider the establishment of internal market controls for Saiga parts e.g., registration of stockpiles, labelling of parts and products and registration of manufacturers and traders, learning from experiences in China	2	A	China: On 12 th November 2007, the Chinese State Forestry Administration, Ministry of Health, State Industry and Commerce Administration, State Food and Drug Administration and State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine jointly announced a “Notice on enhancing the protection of Saiga Antelope, pangolin, rare snake species and management of standardisation of their relevant products for medicine”. This fills a major gap in the control of saiga horn stockpiles.
3.6	Encourage Range States and consumer States to comply with decisions and recommendations put forward by CITES and resulting from market surveys	2	A	International: In June 2007, the saiga antelope was discussed at the meeting of the CITES Animals Committee, and an update on the situation was given by the CITES secretariat, including the results of an trade survey in consumer and producer countries conducted by TRAFFIC and the Wildlife Conservation Society. See http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/doc/E14-56.pdf .
3.7	Provide training and disseminate training tools on Saiga trade, its trade status and identification of parts and products for law enforcement officers in local languages, making use of existing materials and best practices	2	A	Mongolia: See 2.4.
3.8	Where feasible, include Saiga conservation and trade issues	2	A	

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
	into higher political agendas (e.g., meetings of the ‘Shanghai group’) in order to raise the awareness of policy makers and ensure higher level political support for the implementation of the Action Plan and medium-term international work programme			
3.9	Encourage research aiming to reduce the quantity of Saiga horn used in traditional Asian medicines and sharing of information with Saiga Range States and consumer States	2	B	
3.10	Secure funding and organize an international workshop on CITES implementation, enforcement and cross-border co-operation in the Central Asian region, based on the experiences of the Urumqi workshop held in 2005	2	B	
3.11	Encourage linkages between in-situ conservation and the Asian medicine industry for promotion of sustainable use of Saiga	2	B	
3.12	In support of the long-term vision of the Work Programme, assess available options and criteria, as well as conservation risks and benefits, of using trophy hunting of Saiga as a possible mechanism to generate funding to support conservation efforts and benefit local communities, if populations have recovered to a level that would allow such uses and if all CITES conditions have been complied with	2	B	Uzbekistan: A new 18-month project funded by FFI and BAT started in Jan 2008, focusing on setting up local community saiga monitoring and advocacy groups, based on the hunting association model. These formally constituted, officially recognised groups could form the basis of organised trophy hunting in the area, and are aimed at attracting ex-poachers.
4.0	Human Factors			
4.1	Expand current incentive and alternative livelihood projects and develop new programmes in all appropriate parts of the Saiga’s range	1	A	Kazakhstan. In Bosoi, Fauna and Flora International’s second round of small grants aimed at providing alternative livelihoods to local men living in the range of the Ustiurt saiga population was carried out, and completed in mid-2007. Uzbekistan: A new programme developing women’s traditional embroidery cooperatives started in April 2008, carried out by the SCA along with the NGO “Golden Trail of the Aral”, and funded by WCN. Russia: A pilot participatory monitoring programme funded by the British Council has employed local farmers as part-time saiga monitors (2008); a rotating cows project funded by DEFRA has expanded (2006 onwards). Mongolia: A project has been running for the last 3 years around Lake Khar-Us aimed at replacing individual family herding by community based rangeland use in critical Saiga habitats. Introductory training courses were organized on community based management

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
				concepts and tools for establishing community groups and joint rangeland management plans. A system of local facilitators/trainers (motivated herders) who mobilize support for conservation and herder groups among the local population was established
4.2	Monitor attitudes to Saiga conservation activities and evidence of poaching and trade using local-level social research including participatory community monitoring	2	A	<p>Russia: A survey of attitudes to saiga conservation and the effectiveness of conservation projects was carried out in Oct-Nov 2007 by the Centre for Ecological Projects and Imperial College London, funded by the Darwin Initiative. A one-year pilot participatory monitoring project started in Jan 2008, funded by the British Council, and implemented by Kalmykia State University and Imperial College London.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: Ongoing projects have continued on setting up a “Saiga Friends” network and supporting craft clubs, carried out by the SCA and Institute of Zoology, and funded by FFI/BAT and WCN.</p> <p>A new 18-month project funded by FFI/BAT started in Jan 2008, focusing on setting up local community saiga monitoring and advocacy groups, based on the hunting association model. These formally constituted, officially recognised groups could form the basis of organised trophy hunting in the area, and are aimed at attracting ex-poachers.</p> <p>Kazakhstan: The Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative (ADCI) has carried out research on poaching behaviour and social circumstances of local people.</p> <p>Mongolia: Volunteer rangers are monitoring attitudes to saiga poaching and success of herder group initiatives.</p>
4.3	Strengthen the involvement of different stakeholders in Saiga conservation and encourage local involvement in, and support for, Saiga protection	2	A	<p>Kazakhstan: ADCI has instituted a community-based programme of anti-poaching actions which has led to an increase in crime reporting by local people.</p> <p>Mongolia: In 2006, WWF-Mongolia coordinated a round-table of saiga stakeholders, and instituted a system of volunteer rangers, which is backed by Government decree. A participatory rural appraisal exercise was carried out with herder communities, to assess the current situation, identify bottlenecks and discuss ways forward for community-based saiga conservation. The MAVA saiga project was presented to a wide audience in the Gobi-Altai province on 25-31 October 2007, including local decision-makers, the media and other interested parties.</p> <p>Russia: In 2007 a project funded by the Association of Religions in Society and led by the Dharma Centre, Kalmykia, was established to involve religious groups in saiga conservation.</p> <p>A cultural exchange between the UK and Kalmykia took place in May-June 2007, funded by the Darwin Initiative, and leading to enhanced understanding of the issues of saiga conservation and ways to address it in future.</p> <p>A one-year pilot participatory monitoring project started in Jan 2008, funded by the</p>

Measures to be taken		1	2	Progress made/ Comments
				<p>British Council, and implemented by Kalmykia State University and Imperial College London.</p> <p>The ARC-funded project with the Centre for Wild Animals in Kalmykia has come to an end, with outputs including the opening of a Buddhist shrine at the CWA's Saiga Breeding Centre.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: Ongoing projects have continued on setting up a "Saiga Friends" network and supporting craft clubs, carried out by the SCA and Institute of Zoology, and funded by FFI/BAT and WCN.</p> <p>A new 18-month project funded by FFI and BAT started in Jan 2008, focusing on setting up local community saiga monitoring and advocacy groups, based on the hunting association model. These formally constituted, officially recognised groups could form the basis of organised trophy hunting in the area, and are aimed at attracting ex-poachers. A new programme developing women's traditional embroidery cooperatives started in April 2008, carried out by the SCA along with the NGO "Golden Trail of the Aral", and funded by WCN.</p>
4.4	Promote sustainable rangeland use to enable the cohabitation of people and Saiga	2	A	<p>Kazakhstan: There is a plan for sustainable land use being developed for central Kazakhstan, under the ADCI. Under a UNDP project on water resources, a plan has been drawn up for the Kurgal'dzhinsky nature reserve, which has saigas within it.</p> <p>Mongolia: See 4.1.</p>
4.5	Ensure national focal points are responsible for integration of human factors and public awareness into policy implementation	2	B	
5.0	Awareness			
5.1	Continue an objective high-profile mass-media campaign at regional, national and local levels, addressing Saiga conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and explaining the relevant challenges, with a particular focus on local media outlets	2	A	<p>International: The SCA attended the Wildlife Conservation Network's annual Expo in San Francisco in October 2007, raising awareness of the saiga internationally, and attended again as confirmed WCN Partners in October 2008.</p> <p>Kazakhstan: Several newspaper articles were published and radio and television news items shown, on the importance of saiga conservation.</p> <p>A TV film on saigas shot by Gala Films in 2006 was shown a number of times on national TV. Booklets entitled "Lets conserve saigas for future generations" have been distributed among local people.</p> <p>Mongolia: Six Eco-clubs were established at schools in the project area. With the support of the Aimag Education Agency, a small grants competition was run for youth clubs in order to engage children. WWF Mongolia started a weekly radio program in January 2008, to increase understanding of nature conservation, and has strong partnerships with the media. The local monastery and medical doctors are raising awareness to overcome</p>

Measures to be taken		1	2	Progress made/ Comments
				<p>the myth of animal based aphrodisiacs. Several newspapers, articles, brochures and guide book were published in late 2006, revealing cases of saiga poaching.</p> <p>Russia: Several newspaper articles were published and radio and television news items shown, on the importance of saiga conservation.</p> <p>The cultural exchange in Kalmykia led to a number of articles in the local press in Kalmykia and in the UK.</p>
5.2	Continue to develop [2 A] and widely distribute [2 B] information and educational materials on Saiga biology and conservation aimed at local people and decision-makers	2	A /B	<p>Kazakhstan: A 15-minute saiga cartoon was shown in October 2007, supported by NABU. Animaster studios launched a competition to find a script for a second animated film about saigas, to be judged in 2008, see http://saiga.kz.</p> <p>A TV film on saigas shot by Gala Films in 2006 was shown a number of times on national TV. Booklets entitled “Lets conserve saigas for future generations” have been distributed among local people.</p> <p>The ADCI has distributed a range of saiga-related educational and public awareness materials among local people in the Betpak-dala region.</p> <p>Mongolia: Brochures were distributed to people living in the saiga range and a children’s art competition was run in late 2006. The monastery in Darvi Soum of Khovd Province supports Saiga conservation by inviting people to “environmentally friendly worship” events. WWF translated the Sutai san (blessing book) from Tibetan into Mongolian and distributed it to local people together with the Darvi Soum monastery.</p> <p>The MAVA project carried out a needs assessment on education and awareness, with participation from WWF-Mongolia, the Ministry of Education, scientists and NGOs. They have also employed an Education Officer, whose work will include a range of activities involving schools, local communities and the media in general.</p> <p>Russia: The Centre for Ecological Projects carried out a public awareness campaign in September-October 2007, funded by the Darwin Initiative.</p> <p>The Centre for Ecological Projects has distributed <i>Saiga News</i> and calendars with children’s artworks among local people, given lectures in schools, organised a children’s craft competition and shown a film on the saiga crisis at several farmsteads within the saiga range. The Centre for Wild Animals has hosted 24 educational visits to the saiga breeding centre. The Stepnoi Reserve in the Astrakhan province has also carried out school visits and film shows, funded by IFAW.</p> <p>In Jan-May 2008, the Stepnoi Reserve carried out an SCA-funded project developing an ecotourism trail for visitors.</p> <p>The Centre for Ecological Projects and the Eco-Biological Centre of the Republic of Kalmykia carried out a children’s arts competition on the 5th June 2008, the Day of the Environment.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: The WCN-funded SCA project on public awareness raising is ongoing, and</p>

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
				includes the distribution of hard copies of <i>Saiga News</i> in Uzbek and lectures in schools, carried out by the SCA and Institute of Zoology. In March-April 2008 saiga events were held at a number of schools. A schoolbook on saigas has been adapted with the support of NABU, and at the end of 2009 this will be distributed with FFI support. Progress on saiga conservation is regularly reported at http://www.econews.uz/econews/rus/news/
5.3	Support and regularly update existing web-sites about Saiga conservation, restoration and sustainable use, including the creation and maintenance of official national Saiga focal point websites	2	B	International: The SCA's new website was launched in October 2007 at www.saiga-conservation.com , and has subsequently been upgraded. The <i>Saiga News</i> mailing list continues to expand. <i>Saiga News 7</i> was published in July 2008, and is currently available in 5 languages.
5.4	Expand the distribution and profile of <i>Saiga News</i> , both in hard copy at a local level and through other media, nationally and internationally	2	B	International: See notes in section 5.3. <i>Saiga News 7</i> was published in July 2008, and is currently available in 4 languages. It contains a summary of progress towards the fulfilment of the MTWP, with the full report on the SCA website.
6.0	Mapping distribution			
6.1	Collate information on Saiga habitat and range use, present and past; identify key features, including habitat types used and the effects of anthropogenic disturbance	2	A	Kazakhstan: Since spring 2007 a Gis specialist has been working for ADCI, with the responsibility of processing data on saiga distributions and ecology and of managing ranger-based data collection in the Altyn Dala region, funded by the German government and FZS. A joint project between Imperial College and the Institute of Zoology, funded by the Leverhulme Trust and Royal Society of London, started on 1 st October 2008, with the aim of collating historical information on saiga distributions for use in predictive modelling of habitat use. Mongolia: In 2006 and 2008, the saiga area was mapped in a GIS which included livestock density, poaching locations and important areas such as breeding sites and migration corridors. Russia: In the Pre-Caspian population, information continues to be added to a database of saiga distributions, herd size and structures in the Chernye Zemli Biosphere Reserve and Stepnoi Sanctuary from 2003 onwards. A GIS map of the two Reserves was produced under the Bridge project in 2008.
6.2	Carry out research on Saiga movement using appropriate technology (including satellite tracking)	2	B	Mongolia: 8 saigas were satellite-collared in August 2006 by the Wildlife Conservation Society and Mongolian Academy of Sciences. 40 Saiga calves were radio-collared in June 2008 by the Wildlife Conservation Society and Institute of Biology, MAS..
6.3	Record all information on GIS and develop a system for	2	B	See 6.1.

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
	exchange of information			
6.4	Analyse range use based on this information, and make conservation recommendations accordingly	2	B	This activity requires information from the previous activities in this section before it can be started.
7.0	Protected areas			
7.1	Expand and enhance national protected area networks to benefit Saiga, with particular emphasis on protecting key areas (birthing and rutting) and migratory corridors, based on the recommendations from 6.4	1	B	<p>Kazakhstan: In February 2007, the Irgiz-Turgaiskiy State Nature Reserve was gazetted in the eastern part of the Aktiubinsk province, in the area of the Betpak-dala saiga population. Supported by the ADCI, in 2008 the scientific justification for the new State Nature Reserve “Altyn Dala” was accepted by the government. The protected area will probably be established by early 2010.</p> <p>Russia: The status of the Stepnoi protected area (zakaznik) in the pre-Caspian region was altered in August 2007, dividing it into one zone specifically for saiga protection and another for sustainable use. This will improve the powers of the Reserve authorities to protect saigas effectively.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: A new 12-month project has started, funded by FFI, to improve the effectiveness of the Saigachiy Reserve. This will include the preparation of information about the area, and the development of recommendations for reorganisation of the Reserve structure.</p> <p>Mongolia: “Chandmanii Khuren Tal” Local Protected Area was established in 2008 with 133317 hectares in the saiga range.</p>
7.2	Carry out a feasibility study on establishment of trans-frontier protected areas where appropriate	2	B	Russia: There is a proposal for the “El’ton regional nature park” in the Volgograd region, which would cover part of the Ural population, on the border of Russia and Kazakhstan.
8.0	Monitoring			
8.1	Carry out annual population counts	1	B	<p>Kazakhstan: Aerial censuses of all three saiga populations were carried out in April-May 2007 and from 14th April to 4th May 2008. Saiga populations continue to grow in the Betpak-dala and Ural regions and decrease in Ustiurt.</p> <p>Mongolia: Annual counts have occurred for the last 10 years. The last population survey was carried out in January 2008 and estimated 3,240 saiga in an area of 13,000 km². This shows an 11.8% increase in saiga numbers in comparison to 2007’s survey.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: The Ministry of Nature Protection carried out an aerial survey in January 2008.</p>
8.2	Carry out monitoring of Saiga populations, their demographic parameters and their wider environment	2	B	<p>Kazakhstan: Monitoring of population status (age-sex structure, distribution and calving) is ongoing in all three populations.</p> <p>Russia: Monitoring of saiga demography, calving, herd size and structure and distribution has continued to be carried out as in previous years by the Stepnoi and Chernye Zemli reserves.</p>

Measures to be taken		1	2	Progress made/ Comments
				<p>Uzbekistan: The State Nature Conservation Committee has prepared a project on development of conservation methods for the Ustiurt population for the period 2008-2011.</p> <p>An agreement has been signed between the Uzbekistan Ministry of Nature Protection and the Institute of Zoology, for joint scientific monitoring and conservation work, starting in May 2008 for 4 years.</p> <p>Monitoring of the Ustiurt saiga population in Uzbekistan has been carried out by the Institute of Zoology and SCA, supported by BAT/FFI, and with the participation of local people</p> <p>Mongolia: Monitoring of Saiga is ongoing according to standard methods developed by the Institute of Biology. Rangers observe distribution, numbers, sex ratio and use GPSes to map locations.</p>
8.3	Review different monitoring techniques, and adopt 'best practice' methodologies for reliable counting of Saiga populations. Identify appropriate sample sizes, timing, and frequency of counts to provide reliable baseline population data. Provide training in standard monitoring techniques as appropriate	2	A	<p>Kazakhstan: In October 2007, a report on aerial census techniques funded by Frankfurt Zoological Society and in collaboration with ACBK was presented to the Committee for Forestry and Hunting and the Institute of Zoology, and its recommendations accepted.</p> <p>Russia: A one-year project evaluating the robustness of ranger-collected data on herd size and distributions started in January 2008 funded by the British Council, and implemented by Kalmykia State University and Imperial College London.</p> <p>Uzbekistan: Order #39 of the State Nature Conservation Committee on 21st April 2008 has included the saiga in the Red Book of Uzbekistan. The State Nature Conservation Committee has also prepared a project on monitoring and development of conservation methods for the Ustiurt population for the period 2008-2011, jointly with the Academy of Sciences. As part of this an aerial survey will be carried out in Uzbekistan on 9th December 2008, and a technical seminar on aerial surveys has been organised by the Institute of Zoology and the SCA, with financial support from FFI and WCN, with sharing of expertise from Kazakhstan (Iu. Grachev).</p> <p>Mongolia: Saiga rangers were trained in survey methodology by WWF Mongolia in cooperation with the Institute of Biology, MAS. WWF and WCS are currently using different monitoring methodologies. It is important that WCS and Mongolian experts reach agreement on a common methodology. WCS has developed a proposal to do this, submitted to MAVA for funding.</p>
8.4	Obtain funding to ensure a time series of at least 5 years using new techniques for population estimation	2	A	
8.5	Encourage use of comparable techniques in all Range States for comparison and joint analysis	2	B	
8.6	Work with local people to develop a participatory monitoring	2	B	Russia: In Kalmykia, a one-year pilot participatory monitoring project started in Jan 2008,

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
	programme for Saiga			funded by the British Council, and implemented by Kalmykia State University and Imperial College London. Uzbekistan: A new 18-month project funded by FFI and BAT started in Jan 2008, focusing on setting up local community saiga monitoring and advocacy groups, based on the hunting association model. These formally constituted, officially recognised groups could form the basis of organised trophy hunting in the area, and are aimed at attracting ex-poachers. Mongolia: Volunteer rangers have been recruited from the local community.
8.7	Carry out regular monitoring of sex/age ratio in Saiga populations to determine trends in sex ratio, survival, reproductive success and age structure	3	B	Russia: See notes in 8.2 Kazakhstan: The Institute of Zoology and ADCI carry out monitoring of saiga ecology. Mongolia: The Institute of Zoology is carrying out projects monitoring saiga ecology, and volunteer rangers also collect relevant data.
9.0	Captive breeding			
9.1	Establish captive breeding facilities in Mongolia	1	A	Mongolia: A feasibility study was carried out in 2006. The conclusion of this assessment was to restore the Saiga population by starting a captive breeding program, associated with other conservation measures such as strengthening of law enforcement, establishing livestock free habitats, public awareness and conservation education. In view of recent increases of the Saiga population, there has been a shift away from the captive breeding suggested in the feasibility study, to measures addressing the underlying causes of the species decline such as poaching, increased risks from natural factors, habitat competition and inadequate level of awareness and education among the local population.
9.2	Determine role of captive breeding for either genetic preservation or reintroduction and set guidelines including approved facilities and reintroductions	2	A	Russia: There is some work ongoing on this subject at the Centre for Wild Animals of Kalmykia.
9.3	Establish captive breeding facilities in other parts of the Saiga range and support existing facilities in Russia and China	2	B	Russia: The Centre for Wild Animals of the Republic of Kalmykia has been active in transferring its expertise to other, more newly established, captive breeding centres in Russia (in Rostov and Astrakhan provinces and Moscow Zoo). Several calves were taken from the Stepnoi Sanctuary in May 2007 in order to improve the captive breeding stock in these breeding centres. Small grants towards the ongoing running costs of the Centre for Wild Animals in Kalmykia have been received from the Large Herbivore Initiative and from Zoos Help in 2007. In Jan and Feb 2008, two grants were received for the Centre for Wild Animals from the Large Herbivore Foundation and the Rufford Foundation. The grants are for improvement of infrastructure, equipment purchase and core funding to support running costs. Uzbekistan: In September 2007, a preliminary assessment visit was made to the

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
				Dzheiran Ecocentre, Bukhara, Uzbekistan, to assess its suitability for captive breeding of saigas. Delegates included the Director of the Centre for Wild Animals in Kalmykia. The saiga has been included in the Strategic Action Plan of the Dzeiran Ecocentre, Bukhatra province.
9.4	Resolve the issue of genetic distinctiveness of different populations	2	A	
9.5	Request change of current CITES recommendations on trade in Saiga to allow export of live animals from breeding facilities for conservation purposes	2	A	
9.6	Maintain a central database or studbook for all captive populations and create structures and leadership for the database	2	A	
9.7	Promote the transfer of expertise in captive breeding	2	A	Russia: See notes in 9.3. In June 2007, the Director of the Centre for Wild Animals, Kalmykia, made a presentation to the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria's antelope group in the UK, and a round table was held on measures that could be taken by European zoos in support of saiga conservation.
	<i>Population-specific measures</i>			
10.0	North-West Pre-Caspian region population			
10.1	Develop and submit for endorsement a long-term programme and action plan to restore and protect the population, including securing task-oriented funding for approved actions, including support from international funds	1	A	No progress. The changes in administrative structures in the Russian Federation have delayed the possible implementation of this measure.
10.2	Conduct regular assessments of the Saiga population using approved techniques at the optimal time for counts and ensuring comparability with similar assessments of other populations	1	A	Monitoring of saiga demography, calving, herd size and structure and distribution has continued to be carried out as in previous years by the Stepnoi and Chernye Zemli reserves. A one-year project evaluating the robustness of ranger-collected data on herd size and distributions started in January 2008 funded by the British Council, and implemented by Kalmykia State University and Imperial College London.
10.3	Implement activities to restore and protect Saiga by improving the work of existing breeding centres, protected areas and other institutions through consolidation of finances obtained	1	A	The Centre for Wild Animals of the Republic of Kalmykia has received two grants towards the continued running of the Yashkul Saiga Breeding Centre. These started in Jan and Feb 2008, and were from the Large Herbivore Foundation and the Rufford

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
	from different sources			Foundation. The grants are for improvement of infrastructure, equipment purchase and core funding to support running costs.
10.4	Provide financial support for initiatives to expand public participation in restoration and protection of Saiga	1	A	In Kalmykia, a one-year pilot participatory monitoring project started in Jan 2008, funded by the British Council, and implemented by Kalmykia State University and Imperial College London.
10.5	Guarantee the permanent effective work of the inter-agency Saiga commission affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation and strengthen its links with administrative units of the Russian Federation within the population's range	2	A	
11.0	Ural population			
11.1	Strengthen anti-poaching activities	1	A	In August 2007 two cases of poaching were uncovered and appropriate action taken. The guilty parties are currently being subjected to court proceedings. Ongoing anti-poaching work is being carried out by Okhotzooptom, under the auspices of the Committee for Forestry and Hunting, with support from the Government of Kazakhstan as well as NGOs.
11.2	Strengthen public awareness and engagement activities	1	A	No progress.
11.3	Build up an information base about Saiga distribution, population structure and threats, to act as a foundation for conservation planning and taking into account the trans-boundary nature of the population	1	A	An aerial survey was carried out to obtain data on numbers, herd structure and distribution of the population in spring 2007. Aerial surveys were carried out between 14 th April and 24 th May 2008. No progress with conservation planning.
11.4	Strengthen cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan for management of this trans-boundary population	2	B	
12.0	Ustiurt population			
12.1	Strengthen anti-poaching activity in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan	1	A	In July 2007, a horn confiscation was made on the Uzbek side of the Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan border. The guilty parties are currently being subjected to court proceedings. Anti-poaching activity has been strengthened in Uzbekistan, and continues in Kazakhstan
12.2	Obtain baseline information about the seasonal distribution and numbers of Saiga. For example - what proportion of the Saiga population over-winters in Uzbekistan and in Turkmenistan in a given year, and what determines this? How many Saiga stay in Uzbekistan year-round, and where?	1	A	The network of saiga friends in Uzbekistan, plus scientific expeditions conducted by the Institute of Zoology in 2007-2008, have given further information on the timing and location of saiga presence in Uzbekistan. Continued population monitoring in Kazakhstan by aerial survey and a number of new monitoring initiatives have started in Uzbekistan, including an aerial survey (see 8.3).
12.3	Ensure that any infrastructural changes along the Uzbekistan/Kazakhstan border are carried out with due regard	1	B	

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
	to Saiga conservation (including migration)			
12.4	Institute public engagement activities, including alternative livelihoods, population-wide, building on the small-scale pilots already in place	2	A	The Uzbekistan filial of the Saiga Conservation Alliance has been active in bringing stakeholders together including government, NGOs, educationalists and scientists, at the local, national and international levels, and in building local support for saigas through a range of educational and awareness-raising activities. Ongoing projects have continued on setting up a “Saiga Friends” network and supporting craft clubs, carried out by the SCA and Institute of Zoology, and funded by FFI/BAT and WCN. Public engagement activities continue to expand.
12.5	Ensure that existing protected areas have funding to allow a minimum acceptable level of functioning and assess the need for further protected areas, including a feasibility study on establishment of a transfrontier reserve on the Ustiurt Plateau encompassing all three Range States	2	A	A new project on the Saigachiy Protected Area has started in Uzbekistan.
12.6	Expedite bilateral and/or trilateral cooperation agreements between the three countries to ensure coordinated action	2	A	A bilateral agreement has been negotiated between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and is ready for signing.
12.7	Carry out public awareness surveys among the local people	2	A	The WCN-funded SCA project on public awareness-raising is ongoing, and includes the distribution of hard copies of <i>Saiga News</i> in Uzbek and lectures in schools, carried out by the SCA and Institute of Zoology. In March-April 2008 saiga events were held at a number of schools. Progress on saiga conservation is regularly reported at http://www.econews.uz/econews/rus/news/
12.8	Carry out work with the law enforcement authorities (border guards, police) working on prohibition and prevention of poaching	2	A	Anti-poaching activity has been strengthened in Uzbekistan, and continues in Kazakhstan
12.9	Engage with infrastructural developers (including oil and gas companies and road/rail developers) to contribute to a programme for Saiga and habitat conservation	2	B	Efforts continue to engage with oil and gas companies, though currently without any concrete outcomes.
13.0	Betpak-dala population			
13.1	Ensure that the ongoing current protected area planning process is relevant to the Saiga’s current and particularly its future needs, including obtaining information about past and current distribution and movement behaviour and factors affecting this	1	A	The ADCI is carrying out conservation planning with the saiga as one of the key species. This includes ranger-based monitoring of saiga distributions and movements, social engagement and support of the government’s protected area planning process (including a new protected area, which is expected to be in place by 2010).
13.2	Strengthen anti-poaching efforts, targeting areas where Saiga	1	A	A new anti-poaching initiative was set up by ADCI in April 2008.

	Measures to be taken	1	2	Progress made/ Comments
	are still present at particular times of year. Ensure that existing anti-poaching initiatives are funded as necessary to allow them to operate effectively			
13.3	Institute public engagement activities, including livelihood enhancement, awareness-raising and involvement in Saiga conservation, population-wide, building on the activities already under way	1	A	The Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative includes public participation elements, such as awareness-raising by ranger teams.
13.4	Ensure that transport and infrastructural development is carried out with due regard to Saiga conservation	2	B	
14.0	Mongolia population			
14.1	Strengthen protection, including adequate funding for anti-poaching patrols [1A], improving protected area management [1A] and upgrading the status of existing protected areas to a higher level [1B]	1	A /B	The MAVA grant includes elements supporting the continuation of this work and was awarded in 2007. There has been substantial progress on anti-poaching activities.
14.2	Establish a captive breeding facility for eventual translocation and to ensure the genetic diversity of the sub-species is preserved	1	A	See 9.1.
14.3	Build local engagement in Saiga conservation through alternative livelihood enhancement and public awareness activities	1	A	There has been substantial work on public engagement and awareness raising, including community rangers.
14.4	Gather information on past estimates of Saiga populations, analyse methods, and obtain a population estimate for the Saiga population, made using agreed methods at a suitable time of year, that can form the basis for ongoing monitoring of population status	1	A	Saiga population surveys have been carried out, as well as research on distributions and movement patterns. A database has been set up for use by all interested parties. See 8.3.
14.5	Obtain information about the seasonal distribution, migration and numbers of Saiga	1	B	Saiga population surveys have been carried out, as well as research on distributions and movement patterns.
14.6	Initiate research efforts on Saiga-livestock interactions, including grazing overlap, competition, and disease transmission	2	B	Progress has been made on saiga-livestock conflict. 4 GPS collars have been put on sheep to track their movements. Data analysis on herder distributions is ongoing.

Annex 2. List of attendees at the CMS monitoring meeting, 29th October 2008, Institute of Zoology, Almaty. * = funded by CMS grant.

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