

## PROJECTS REPORTING TEMPLATE FOR SAIGA-RELATED ACTIVITIES

<b>Project:</b> Saiga in Russia				
<b>Country:</b>	China	<input type="checkbox"/>	Turkmenistan	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Kazakhstan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uzbekistan	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mongolia	<input type="checkbox"/>	International	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Russia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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<b>Duration of project:</b> from July 2018 to June 2022				
<b>Location(s) of main activity:</b> Pre-Caspian Region of Russian Federation				
<b>Sub-species:</b>	<i>Saiga tatarica tatarica</i> *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	<i>Saiga tatarica mongolica</i> *	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	
Socio-economic research	<input type="checkbox"/>	Captive breeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Range mapping	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reintroduction/release	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Habitat research	<input type="checkbox"/>			
For each box ticked, please provide brief details in the project summary box below				
<b>Project Summary:</b> The main goal of the 5-year project is to double the number of Saiga Antelope Pre-Caspian population by increasing of efficiency of anti-poaching activities and improving habitat				

\* 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*.

quality by fire prevention, water shortage reducing, and habitat restoration.

**Planned Activities:**

*Anti-poaching.* Improvement of anti-poaching units' working efficiency by providing Protected Areas with a reliable vehicle, field and communication equipment, etc.

*Population monitoring.* WWF-Russia monitors Saiga Antelope on water bodies with the help of remote- operated aerial vehicle when animals form large herds (during mating (November-December) and after calving (June-July)). To the date we have initially tested several ROAVs to choose the most appropriate equipment (cameras, sensors, etc.) and flight parameters (altitude, visibility, etc.).

*Education and awareness.* To achieve our conservation objectives, it is crucial to increase the awareness and involvement of local people in Saiga Antelope conservation. We see a particular opportunity to deliver the conservation message through children, who will not only retain those values for their whole life, but will also pass them to their relatives. We will also engage regional experts and protected area staff in these programs to build capacity on the local level. WWF's Education and Outreach strategies are aimed on the increase of kid's understanding of Saiga Antelope significance as a keystone species of steppe ecosystem and its conservation needs. Planned activities are the following: lessons, lectures, education and awareness materials dissemination, families' educational excursions to protected areas, etc.

*Habitat restoration.* Saiga population has suffered from habitat degradation via desertification resulting from overgrazing and climate change. Over the past decades, degradation of Saiga Antelope habitat has been continued. A non-typical vegetation which had replaced high-quality pastures, do not provide adequate nutrition for Saiga Antelope. Planned activity: Saiga habitat restoration by vegetation development with focus on native *Kochia prostrata* - high-quality forage.

*Protected area management.* A buffer zone of Chernye Zemli Biosphere Reserve will be established.

*Training & capacity-building.* Increasing of the efficiency of anti-poaching measures in Saiga Antelope habitat by incorporation of SMART tool into daily rangers patrolling activities.

*Law enforcement* – preparation, official approval and implementation of the Action Plan for saiga conservation in Russian federation for the period till 2025” in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for Protection, Restoration and Sustainable us of saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*).

**Achievements to date:**

*Anti-poaching.* An appropriate winter field uniform and gasoline have been provided to Stepnoi wildlife refuge.

*Population monitoring.* To date we have tested several ROAVs in the field to choose the most appropriate equipment (cameras, sensors, etc.) and flight parameters (altitude, visibility, etc.).

*Habitat restoration.* Three artesian wells were repaired by WWF in Stepnoi refuge in 2018 to reduce Saiga Antelope vulnerability to summer droughts.

*Law enforcement* – A Draft of “an Action Plan for saiga conservation in Russian federation for the period till 2025” in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for Protection, Restoration and Sustainable us of saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*) and a Preliminary Statement for the AP were prepared. The process of the AP evaluation by a wide range of experts was organised, and the Draft was submitted for final corrections to the Mammals' experts group of the Commission on rare and endangered species of animals, plants and fungi and further on submitted to the Ministry for an official approval.

**Reports / Publications / Information material:**

<https://wwf.ru/resources/news/kavkaz/kontsern-kalashnikov-i-wwf-razrabatyvayut-metodiku-ucheta-saygakov-s-pomoshchyu-bespilotnikov/>

<https://wwf.ru/en/resources/news/kavkaz/wwf-pomog-vosstanovit-skvazhiny-dlya-saygakov-v-astrahanskoy-oblasti/>

**Collaborators:** Stepnoi wildlife refuge; Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the RAS; Ministry of Nature Resources and Ecology of Russian Federation.

<b>Budget available:</b> 28,000 Euro
<b>Current sponsors:</b> WWF Wildlife Adaptation Innovation Fund, WWF-Netherlands, WWF-Russia Membership
<b>Past sponsors:</b> n/a
<b>Information contributed by:</b> Valerii Shmunk, Head of Caucasus Ecoregional Office; Olga Pereladova – Scientific adviser CA species/Large mammals projects
<b>Date report submitted:</b> 11.03.2019
<b>Other:</b>