

SECOND RANGE STATE MEETING OF THE CMS CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE (CAMI)

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TOWARDS A NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK 2021 – 2026

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

Summary:

This document summarizes recent discussions under CAMI with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Work (POW) 2014-2020 and the recommendations for its future structure. A revised structure of the current POW is being proposed for discussion at the meeting in order to streamline the new POW to make it easier to navigate and monitor its implementation

TOWARDS A NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK 2021 – 2026

Introduction

1. The current Programme of Work (POW) for CAMI 2014-2020 was developed at the Stakeholder Meeting on the Conservation of Large Mammals in Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in 2014. Over the past six years with a number of additional meetings, some important lessons-learned can be drawn for the future cycle.
2. Based on the reports provided by countries and species focal points and the discussions during the CAMI Mid-term Review Meeting on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, in April 2018, the Secretariat has undertaken an analysis of the implementation of the Programme of Work so far. The results are available in UNEP/CMS/CAMI2/Doc.3 *Overview on Implementation* and document UNEP/CMS/CAMI2/Inf.Doc.2 *Implementation: Analysis and Summary*.
3. These documents not only highlight the status of implementation but also include suggestions for amending activities or adding new ones. Participants also made a number of recommendations for monitoring implementation and streamlining the structure of the Programme of Work (see also UNEP/CMS/CAMI1/Report). Also taking into account the results of the Secretariat's analysis, the following general lessons-learned can be highlighted:
 - a) The feasibility of the activities should be taken into account since currently some activities seem to be rather complex and unrealistic;
 - b) The activities and information provided in the POW should be condensed and formulated in a realistic way in order to be able to deliver on the activities;
 - c) Options to streamline the structure of the POW should be explored in order to make it easier to navigate and reduce complexity;
 - d) A coherent analysis of actions under Objective 2 *To guide planning and implementation of prioritized conservation actions on a regional scale*, proved to be difficult because actions either relate to issues already addressed under Objective 1 *To address main threats and issues currently not (sufficiently) covered by existing work programmes and stakeholders*, or they are clearly directed at individual species;
 - e) The degree of attention – and concrete actions – for the individual species varies greatly. While some have a number of dedicated actions (e.g. the Asiatic Cheetah), others (e.g. the Kiang) are not explicitly addressed. In addition, activities on individual species are “hidden” in different places (e.g. the Asiatic Wild Ass occurs in the South-West region as well as the Gobi Desert);
 - f) Objective 3 *To facilitate knowledge exchange, communication and the promotion of synergies* and Objective 4 *To support implementation, coordination and resourcing of the CAMI* could easily be combined under a joint heading “Implementation Support” which outlines measures that support implementation and would include current measures related to communication, coordination, funding and awareness raising.

Elements of a revised structure for the Programme of Work

4. Therefore, the following changes to the current Programme of Work are proposed, subject to approval by the Meeting. First, the four objectives of the POW should be discussed followed by a discussion of the need to assign responsibility and priority. Finally, Table 1 provides a complete overview of the proposed changes and compares the current with the new structure.

Objective 1 To address main threats and issues currently not (sufficiently) covered by existing work programmes and stakeholders..

5. This objective includes seven sections each outlining what is needed in order to address the different threats and issues affecting migratory mammals in the region. The nature of those issues is cross-cutting, i.e. most if not all species are affected by them to varying degrees and all would benefit from effectively addressing them. In order to more accurately reflect this and also reduce complexity, this objective could simply be summarized under the heading "**Part I. Cross-cutting measures**".

Objective 2. To guide planning and implementation of prioritized conservation actions on a regional scale.

6. As already mentioned above, this includes a mixture of major threats and species-specific actions. Looking at those actions, they could easily be rearranged – without changing the content – and assigned to either 1) cross-cutting measures (former objective 1, see above), or 2) species-specific measures that target individual species. The proposal is therefore to move measures that address cross-cutting issues to Part I. and establish a separate section for individual species: **Part II. Species-specific measures.**

7. Doing so would also accommodate the need to achieve a greater balance of attention for each species. It will also help to find more easily the actions directed towards a particular species of interest and facilitate monitoring and analysis of implementation status.

Objective 3. To facilitate knowledge exchange, communication and the promotion of synergies. Objective 4. To support implementation, coordination and resourcing of the CAMI.

8. These two objectives include measures that all relate to the wider field of facilitating and supporting the implementation of the initiative and its POW. Activities are clustered around knowledge and data sharing, coordination mechanism, funding and awareness raising. All those activities are closely related, and it is proposed to consolidate them under **Part III. Implementation Support**, with the sub-sections communication and awareness, coordination, funding, involvement of the private sector.

Responsibilities

9. Assigning responsibilities to each of the actions did not effectively help to facilitate easier follow-up and monitoring, mainly due to the fact that stakeholders necessarily remain at a very general level (e.g. NGOs, or government agencies). Specifying more concretely which agencies should be responsible proved to be challenging at previous meeting and it therefore does not seem necessary to keep the responsibility column in the new POW.

10. However, Range States may want to consider identifying a lead country on a particular topic (i.e. Part I) and/or for a particular species (Part II). Leading on a topic or species would not entail leading on the implementation alone but acting as the main focal point and facilitating the reporting at the meeting of the Range States as well as at other CMS meetings (e.g. Scientific Council Meetings, COP).

Priorities

11. Defining a simple priority (High / Medium / Low) to individual activities is a useful way to assess priority and urgency. Taking into account the discussions on priorities at the last CAMI meeting in 2018, it is proposed to also order the sections under Part I. according to their overall importance and priority.
12. The sub-sections under Part I as shown in Table 1 have already been ranked based on discussions at previous meetings in order of priority, subject to discussion and agreement by the current Meeting. The species sections under Part II are ordered alphabetically.

Table 1. Comparison of the current and proposed new structure of the POW

Current Programme of Work 2014-2020	New Programme of Work 2021-2026
Objective 1. To address main threats and issues currently not (sufficiently) covered by existing work programmes and stakeholders.	Part I. Cross-cutting measures
<p>Sub-sections</p> <p>1.1 Illegal hunting and trade</p> <p>1.2 Overgrazing and livestock competition</p> <p>1.3 Industry and infrastructure development/ barriers to movement</p> <p>1.4 Good governance of natural resource management/ policy and legislation</p> <p>1.5 Human needs/community engagement in conservation</p> <p>1.6 Scientific knowledge</p> <p>1.7 Transboundary cooperation</p>	<p>Sub-sections</p> <p>1. Transboundary cooperation</p> <p>2. Illegal hunting and trade</p> <p>3. Overgrazing and livestock competition</p> <p>4. Industry and infrastructure development/ barriers to movement</p> <p>5. Human needs/community engagement in conservation</p> <p>6. Good governance of natural resource management/ policy and legislation</p> <p>7. Scientific knowledge</p>

Current Programme of Work 2014-2020	New Programme of Work 2021-2026
<p>Objective 2. To guide planning and implementation of prioritized conservation actions on a regional scale.</p>	<p>Part II. Species-specific measures</p>
<p>Sub-sections</p> <p>1.8 Snow Leopard & Argali (mountain ecosystems)</p> <p>1.9 Gobi-Desert–Eastern Steppes Ecosystem (Asiatic Wild Ass, Wild Camel, Mongolian Gazelle, Goitered Gazelle, Przewalski’s Horse)</p> <p>1.10 South-west region (Cheetah, Goitered Gazelle, Chinkara, Asiatic Wild Ass [Khulan/Onager], Przewalski’s horse, Transcaspian ural3)</p> <p>1.11 Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau (China, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan)</p> <p>1.12 Bukhara deer (Tugai forests of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)</p>	<p>Sub-sections</p> <p>8. Argali</p> <p>9. Asiatic Cheetah</p> <p>10. Asiatic Wild Ass</p> <p>11. Bukhara Deer</p> <p>12. Chinkara (<i>only action: consider listing under CMS at COP14</i>)</p> <p>13. Goitered Gazelle</p> <p>14. Kiang</p> <p>15. Mongolian Gazelle</p> <p>16. Persian Leopard (<i>if proposed for inclusion under CAMI</i>)</p> <p>17. Przewalski’s Horse</p> <p>18. Saiga Antelope</p> <p>19. Snow Leopard</p> <p>20. Tibetan Antelope/ Chiru (<i>if proposed for listing under CMS, otherwise same as chinkara</i>)</p> <p>21. Tibetan Gazelle (<i>only action: consider listing under CMS at COP14</i>)</p> <p>22. Wild Camel</p> <p>23. Wild Yak</p>
<p>Objective 3. To facilitate knowledge exchange, communication and the promotion of synergies.</p>	<p>Part III. Implementation Support</p>
<p>Sub-sections</p> <p>24. Knowledge and Data Sharing</p>	<p>Sub-sections</p> <p>25. Communication and awareness</p> <p>26. Coordination</p> <p>27. Funding</p> <p>28. Private sector involvement</p>
<p>Objective 4. To support implementation, coordination and resourcing of the CAMI.</p>	<p><i>To be combined with Part III</i></p>
<p>Sub-sections</p> <p>1.1. Coordination mechanism for CAMI</p> <p>1.2. Funding implementation</p> <p>1.3. Awareness raising</p>	

Action requested:

13. The Meeting is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the lessons learnt;
- (b) Discuss and endorse the new structure for the POW 2021-2026

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE (2021-2026)

Introduction

1. The vast and still largely interconnected ecosystems of the Central Asian region harbour a number of CMS-listed large mammal species, most of which are in decline due to poaching, illegal trade, habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation from mining and infrastructure development as well as from overgrazing by and competition with livestock and conversion to agriculture. CMS Parties recognized with Recommendations 8.23 and 9.1 that the populations of many Eurasian migratory mammals¹ are in a profoundly unsatisfactory state of conservation and that these ecosystems and their unique migration phenomena are a crucial area of action for the Convention. CMS is already working together with many Central Asian countries and organizations, inter alia through the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for the conservation of the Saiga Antelope and the Bukhara Deer and the Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Argali. CMS policies also target the removal of barriers to migration and the building of transboundary ecological networks (Res.12.7).
2. The Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) has been developed under CMS to provide a common strategic framework for action at the international level to conserve migratory mammals and their habitat in the region. It aims at bringing together and harmonizing implementation of existing CMS instruments and mandates as well as initiatives undertaken by other stakeholders. A strong focus of CAMI is on promoting synergies between stakeholders and existing conservation frameworks, as well as on sharing communication and strengthening cooperation across borders, facilitating building on successes and raising awareness.

¹ A "migratory species" under CMS means "the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries." (CMS 1979).

Taxonomic and Geographical Scope

Species covered by the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)

	CMS Appendix	Species (scientific name)	Species (common name)
1	App. I & II	<i>Cervus elaphus yarkandensis</i>	Bukhara Deer
2	App. I	<i>Camelus bactrianus</i>	Wild Camel
3	App. I	<i>Bos grunniens</i>	Wild Yak
4	App. I	<i>Uncia uncia</i>	Snow Leopard
5	App. I	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Asiatic Cheetah
6	App. I	<i>Equus caballus przewalskii</i>	Przewalski's Horse
7	App. II	<i>Saiga spp.</i>	Saiga Antelope
8	App. II	<i>Ovis ammon</i>	Argali
9	App. II	<i>Procapra gutturosa</i>	Mongolian Gazelle
10	App. II	<i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>	Goitered Gazelle
11	App. II	<i>Equus hemionus</i> (includes <i>Equus onager</i>)	Asiatic Wild Ass
12	App. II	<i>Equus kiang</i>	Kiang
Species sharing the same range not listed under CMS and not covered by the POW			
13	<i>Not listed</i>	<i>Pantholops hodgsonii</i>	Chiru
14	<i>Not listed</i>	<i>Procapra picticaudata</i>	Tibetan Gazelle
15	<i>Not listed</i>	<i>Gazella bennettii</i>	Chinkara (Jabeer Gazelle)

These species occur in the following 14 **Range States**²:

AFGHANISTAN, Bhutan, China, INDIA, the Islamic Republic of IRAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, MONGOLIA, Nepal, PAKISTAN, the Russian Federation, TAJIKISTAN, Turkmenistan and UZBEKISTAN.

Vision

3. Secured and viable populations of migratory mammals that range across the landscapes of Central Asia in healthy ecosystems, are valued by, and bring benefits to, local communities and all stakeholders.

Goal

4. To improve the conservation of migratory large mammals and their habitats in the Central Asian region by strengthening coordination and cross-border cooperation.

² CMS Parties in capital letters.