

**NATIONAL REPORTS FOR THE SAIGA ANTELOPE MOU AND ACTION PLAN
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

This reporting format is designed to monitor implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*). Reports on implementation will support exchange of information throughout the range and assist the identification of necessary future actions by the Signatories. The format has been designed to support the needs of the Range States, the MoU and CMS. Information gathered will also support the implementation CITES Decisions 13.27-13.35.

Please complete as appropriate and **return to the CMS Secretariat by 30 June 2006**, keeping in mind that not all sections are relevant to each State.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1.	Range State name: RUSSIA
1.2.	Designated Focal Point with responsibility to co-ordinate MoU implementation (full contact details): 13/09/2006
1.3.	Date submitted: <u>13/09/2006</u> dd/mm/yyyy
1.4.	Period covered by the report: From <u>2004</u> <u>2006</u> dd/mm/yyyy to dd/mm/yyyy
1.5.	List of other agencies or NGOs that have provided input to this report:

2. CMS MoU

2.1. Has the MoU been signed? Yes No N/A

2.2. Date signed: _____
dd/mm/yyyy

2.3. If the MoU has not been signed, what is the target date for signing? None.

3. SAIGA POPULATIONS

3.1. Are saiga present all year or seasonally? All year Seasonal

3.2. If seasonal, list the months of occurrence [e.g., 3-10, 11-2]

3.3. Current total population estimate.
Low quantity population phase.

3.4. Overall population trend Up Down Stable Mixed Unknown

3.5. List main subpopulations (if applicable) with estimated size and trend.
Northwest Pre-Caspian population. Mean annual population – from 15,000 to 17,000 (expert estimate). Main area is somewhat larger than 10,000 km². Volga-Ural sub-population – several dozen individual saiga.

3.6. Is there a national recording system/database for saiga? Yes No

3.7. Name of agency/agencies maintaining records/database.
RF FGU TsentriOkhotaKontrol. State service for registration of game animals and their habitats.

3.8. At what intervals is the population monitored? Annually Seasonally Ad hoc N/A

3.9. What proportion of the population is monitored?
 >75% 50-75% 10-49% <10% None N/A

3.10. List agency/agencies carrying out monitoring.
RF FGU TsentriOkhotaKontrol, Department for Hunting Resource Surveying, State Service for Registration of Game Animals, Department of Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision in the Republic of Kalmykia, Department for Hunting Supervision.

- 3.11. Methods used to carry out monitoring. Aerial Ground Vehicle Mixed
- 3.12. If mixed, please give details by subpopulation/area.
In Northwest Pre-Caspian – about 15,000 animals occupied over 10,000 km². With due account of relocation over the area during winter 2005-2006
- 3.13. Date of most recent monitoring effort: May 2006, August 2006
dd/mm/yyyy
- 3.14. Does monitoring cover:
- population size? Yes No
- sex/age structure? Yes No
- reproductive rate? Yes No
- 3.15. What measures have been taken to standardise monitoring methodology with other states?
Development of up-to-date methods of saiga aerial census in Kazakhstan based on saiga aerial census in the Republic of Kalmykia in recent years.
- 3.16. What is the status of saiga in the national Red Data Book/Red List?
Saiga is on the list of game animal types.

4. HABITAT

- 4.1. What proportion of saiga habitat has been lost [.....%] or degraded? [.....%]
Since the beginning of the XXI century, the habitat amounts to approximately 10,000 km² which is more than 2.5 times as little as in mid-nineties.
- 4.2. What efforts have been made to restore degraded habitat and to what extent have these been successful?
Changes of habitats had both negative and positive features.
- 4.3. Is saiga habitat intact or fragmented?
 Intact Moderately Fragmented Severely fragmented
- 4.4. List any significant physical barriers on saiga migration routes: (e.g. pipelines, roads, railways, canals). Data not available
- 4.5. Is the impact of proposed developments in saiga range assessed? Yes No
Data not available
- 4.6. How is this enforced? Data not available
- 4.7. What percentage of saiga range is covered by protected areas? [.....%] Around 60%

- 4.8. List all protected areas in saiga range, together with IUCN management category, area (hectares), seasons/months when saiga are present, estimated number of saiga present, and whether these include rutting/calving areas.

Name	Size , Thou. hectares	IUCN category	Months saiga present	Estimate d numbers	Rutting	Calving
Mekletinskiy Wildlife Reserve	105.2	Federal	Periodically		Insignificant-ly	Relatively rarely
Tinguta Wildlife Reserve	197.8	Regional	Almost permanently		Part of area	Part of area
Chernye Zemli Wildlife Area	1219.01	Regional	In transit, almost		Part of area	Part of area

- 4.9. List any other protected areas that have been proposed or identified?

Name	Size , Thou. hectares	IUCN category	Months - saiga present	Estimate- d numbers	Rutting	Calving
Sarpinskiy Wildlife Reserve	195.9	Federal	Rarely, in June			
Kharbinskiy Wildlife Reserve	163.9	Federal	Very rarely			
Saiga Wildlife Reserve	Over 6.000	Regional				

- 4.10. List key areas of saiga range lacking any protected areas.
Currently, no expansion of protected areas is planned.

5. POPULATIONS SHARED BETWEEN RANGE STATES

- 5.1 What transboundary initiatives have been taken for saiga populations shared with neighbouring States or that migrate to other Range States?
Population dynamics monitoring. Location and relocation tracking. Protection of saiga in transit over the territory of Russia.
- 5.2 List any transboundary protected areas.
A number of protected areas in Astrakhan and Volgograd Oblasts within the system of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation (MPR).
- 5.3 List any transboundary protected areas that are planned. No data available

6. LAWS, INSTITUTIONS & TRADE

- 6.1. List Government agencies active in saiga conservation and management and their functions related to saiga.
Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. Protection, conservation, and amplification of saiga population.
- 6.2. Has a national strategy or action plan for saiga been developed? Yes No
[Details]
Positive. 1. Monitoring of populations status. 2. Monitoring in the natural habitat.
3. Assessment of changes of habitat. 4. Conservation and breeding of saiga in farms.
- 6.3. What is the legal status of saiga antelope?
Is on the hunting game animals list.
- 6.4. Provide details and references of relevant legislation.
1. Federal Law *On Wildlife* No. 52-FZ dated 23/04/1995; 2. Instruction on the Procedure for Hunting Wild Ungulates Based on Permits (Licenses) in the RSFSR. Approved and put into effect by RSFSR GlavOkhota Order No. 316 dated 22/08/1984 and by Order No. 26 dated 06/08/1996 (since 1998, hunting of saiga has been suspended)
- 6.5. How does current legislation regulate
- hunting of saiga antelope? Hunting has been prohibited after 1998.
 - keeping and breeding of saiga antelopes? Keeping and breeding in three farms and in the Moscow Zoological Gardens.
 - possession of saiga parts and derivatives? No.
 - domestic trade in saiga parts and derivatives? Not performed in the domestic market.
 - import and (re-) export of saiga parts and derivatives, and live animals?
No export trade is performed in pursuance of CITES Standing Committee Recommendation No.45 dated June 2001.
- 6.6. Which agencies or departments are in charge of enforcing the legislation?
[Indicate those charged with *in situ* protection, e.g. anti-poaching or surveillance of protected areas, and those charged with controlling legal and illegal trade in saiga.]
Within the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation: Department for Veterinary and Animal Husbandry; Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision Service.
Department of Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision Service in the Republic of Kalmykia. Department for Supervision over Hunting. Operational Control Group (former Uldis Knakis Mobile Saiga Protection Detachment).

- 6.7. What penalties are applicable for infringements of the legislation?
Criminal Code of the Russian Federation No. 63-FZ dated June 1996
Russian Federation Administrative Violations Code No. 195-FZ dated 30/12/2001
Pecuniary penalties in the approved legal procedure seizure of unlawful hunting weapons.
Initiation of criminal cases following facts of gross violation.
- 6.8. Provide details of activities undertaken since 2004 to control legal and illegal trade in parts and derivatives of saiga antelope, including: controls and inspections; seizures and confiscations; and prosecutions.
Patrolling and monitoring of saiga population numbers are undertaken.
- 6.9. Do stocks of horns or other saiga products exist in your country? If so, provide details on: size and nature of the stocks; source of the stocks; owners of the stocks; stock registration and monitoring system; and controls of these stocks.
No data available
- 6.10. What happens to confiscated parts and derivatives? Destroyed Stored
[Details]
Submitted as appropriate for execution of judgments.
- 6.11. Have customs and other law enforcement officers been made aware of legislation concerning saiga?
Have they received training in identifying saiga parts and derivatives?
No data available
- 6.12. Provide details of activities undertaken since 2004 to protect saiga antelopes *in situ*, including: patrolling and surveying efforts; anti-poaching actions; prosecutions for poaching, etc.
Patrolling on permanent basis and monitoring of saiga population numbers are undertaken.
Joint raids together with militia and aerial patrolling are practiced.
- 6.13. What proportion of saiga range is covered by ranger or police patrols? [.....%]
In joint patrolling.
- 6.14. Are these patrols effective in protecting saiga? Positive.
- 6.15. What resources (personnel, material, financial) are required to ensure effectiveness of the patrols?
Material, pecuniary, and personnel.
- 6.16. Do patrols cover birthing and rutting areas? Yes No Partially N/A
[Details]
Positive. Along with employment of foot patrols and motor vehicle patrols. Aerial patrolling is employed.

- 6.17. Do rangers inside and outside protected areas have the power of arrest? Yes No
[Details]
- 6.18. Why are saiga antelopes poached? Has illegal killing of saiga increased/decreased/stabilised over the last three years?
Decreased.
- 6.19. What is the estimated proportion of illegal hunting for horns [.....%]; for meat [.....%]; or for both [.....%]?
- 6.20. Provide details of the domestic legal/illegal market for saiga products in your country, indicating its size and nature, and whether it is growing, stable or declining.
No data available
- 6.21. Provide details of the legal and illegal international trade in saiga products from your country during the last five years.
No data available
- 6.22. Give details of any socio-economic surveys carried out concerning poaching of and illegal trade in saiga antelope. [details, institution, date, results].
No data available
- 6.23. List any problems in implementing aspects of CITES relating to saiga antelopes.
No data available
- 6.24. Describe initiatives undertaken to facilitate alternative livelihoods in communities within saiga range.
No data available

7. CAPTIVE BREEDING

- 7.1. Does your country operate capture breeding facilities? Yes No N/A
- 7.2. List existing captive breeding facilities [locality, name, managing agency].
1. Astrakhan Oblast. Astrakhanskoye GOOH FGU. Department for animal husbandry and veterinary.
2. Breeding Farm of the Centre for Study and Conservation of Wild Animals of the Republic of Kalmykia, Ermely Village, Republic of Kalmykia
3. Moscow Zoological Gardens, Moscow Oblast.
4. Breeding Farm of the Wildlife of the Steppe Association. Orlovskiy District, Rostov Oblast
- 7.3. How many saiga are held in total and at individual centres?
More than 110 saiga in the aggregate.

7.4. Is reproduction successful? Yes No
[Details]

7.5. Give details of any co-operation with captive breeding facilities in other states?

7.6. Have any captive-bred animals been transferred to other range states? Yes No
[Details]

7.7. Have any captive bred animals been released into the wild? Yes No
[number/sex/date/locality]
Several saiga mails marked with radio marker beacons were released and later on returned to breeding farm open air cages in Ermely Village, Republic of Kalmykia.

7.8. Are released animals subject to monitoring? Yes No N/A
[Details]

7.9. Are any releases planned? Yes No
[Details]
Plans are in place; however releases are scheduled not for the immediate future.

7.10. Are any new captive breeding centres planned? Yes No
[Details]

8. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

8.1. Describe the public's awareness regarding saiga.
In the Republic of Kalmykia, awareness lessons are given to schoolchildren and competitions are organised. Lectures and instructions are given to local people on human behaviour in saiga habitat and migration locations. During 2005, 1,500 lectures were delivered.

8.2. Describe educational and publicity materials and programmes that have been developed for:

Schools – Bulletin boards on saiga are created, lectures are delivered.

General public Press and Media – By the order of Hunting Department of the Republic of Kalmykia, the Uzel [Knot] film was shot to widely describe the saiga problem and narrate the measures undertaken for the purposes of conservation of these animals. Apart from that, over the local TV channels programs devoted to saiga are broadcast 5-6 times per year.

8.3. Is any information available on the Internet? Yes No
[Details]

8.4. List any surveys carried out to assess changes in public attitudes to saiga.

9. ECOLOGICAL STUDIES

9.1. Have any studies been carried out on habitat requirements? Yes No
[Details]

9.2. Is the location of rutting and calving grounds known? Yes No
[Details]

9.3. Are migration routes known? Yes No
[Details]

9.4. Have any studies into dietary competition with domestic livestock been undertaken? Yes No
[Details]

9.5. Has any research into disease and pathogens been carried out? Yes No
[Details]

9.6. List any recent and ongoing ecological studies, with details of reports or publications. Yes No
[Details]

9.7. Are the causes of natural mortality understood? Yes No
[Details]
Partly understood.

9.8. What are the main natural predators?
The wolf, diurnal birds of prey, and the fox.

9.9. Are there any predator control programmes in the saiga's range? Yes No
[Details]
Monitoring of wolf population dynamics. Acquisition of data on territorial distribution of wolf hunting.

10. THREATS

Rate the impact of the main threats to saiga in your country

	Nil	Low	Medium	High	Very high	Unknown
Hunting for meat		V				
Hunting for horns/trade		V				
Habitat loss			V			
Livestock competition		V				
Disease			V (*)			
Climate				V		
Climate				V		
Predation					V	
Fragmentation				V		
Demographic factors			V			
Barriers to migration			V			
Other (Please specify)						

V(*) – Saiga morbidity recording is only for mite infestation.

11. ACTION

Which priority measures to conserve or restore saiga does your country wish to take in the next 5 years?

1. Analysis of rutting progress;
2. Analysis of pastures status (area-specific).

12. OTHER MEASURES

Please provide details of any other country-specific actions taken that have not been covered yet.

1. Causes for drastic reduction in saiga population should be identified;
2. Saiga current status should be studied;
3. Saiga species conservation-specific program should be developed;
4. Saiga commercial breeding and keeping technology should be developed for the purposes of saiga release into the wild; and
5. Genetic variability of saiga species based on mt-DNA analysis should be studied.