

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS
FOR THE SAIGA ANTELOPE MOU AND ACTION PLAN**

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:	Kazakhstan
1.2.	Designated Focal Point with responsibility to co-ordinate MoU implementation (full contact details):	
1.3.	Date submitted:	<u>23 June 2006</u> dd/mm/yyyy
1.4.	Period covered by the report: From _____ to _____ dd/mm/yyyy to dd/mm/yyyy	
1.5.	List of other agencies or NGOs that have provided input to this report:	
	Zoology Institute, Ministry of Education and Science (MES), RK e-mail: instzoo@nursat.kz ; terio@nursat.kz	

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?

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.

Natural habitat: from the Caspian in the west to the Balkhash Lake in the east. Estimated population: ca. 40,000.

3.4. Overall population trend Up Down Stable Mixed Unknown

3.5. List main subpopulations (if applicable) with estimated size and trend.

Three subpopulations: Betpakdala subpopulation, 16,800, up; Ustyurt subpopulation, 14,700, down; and Ural subpopulation, 9,800, stable.

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

3.7. Name of agency/agencies maintaining records/database.

Zoology Institute, MES, RK

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.

Zoology Institute, MES, RK

3.11. Methods used to carry out monitoring. Aerial Ground Vehicle Mixed

3.12. If mixed, please give details by subpopulation/area.

Betpakdala subpopulation – habitat between the Balkhash Lake and the Aral Sea; Ustyurt subpopulation – between the Aral Sea and the Caspian; and Ural subpopulation – between the Ural River and the Volga.

3.13. Date of most recent monitoring effort: April 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?

With Russia and Uzbekistan – consistent field monitoring methodology

3.16. What is the status of saiga in the national Red Data Book/Red List?

Saiga is not in the Kazakhstan Red Data Book

4. HABITAT

4.1. What proportion of saiga habitat has been lost [.....%] or degraded? [.....%]

About 10% of saiga habitat has been lost as a result of natural resources field development and construction projects.

4.2. What efforts have been made to restore degraded habitat and to what extent have these been successful?

In Kazakhstan, the general status of saiga habitat is satisfactory.

4.3. Is saiga habitat intact or fragmented?

Intact (**in some locations**) Moderately Fragmented (**in some locations**) Severely fragmented

4.4. List any significant physical barriers on saiga migration routes: (e.g. pipelines, roads, railways, canals).

The Atyrau-Kandagach and the Jezkazgan-Zharyk railways.

4.5. Is the impact of proposed developments in saiga range assessed? Yes No

4.6. How is this enforced?

4.7. What percentage of saiga range is covered by protected areas? [**<5 %**] less than 5%

- 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 (ha)	IUCN category	Months saiga present	Estimated numbers	Rutting	Calving
Kurgaldzhy Reserve	258963		V-X	150-300	No	During certain years
Turgai Game Reserve	348000		V-X	500-1000	No	During certain years
Andasai Game Reserve	1000000		X-IV	100-200	Yes	No
Zhusandaly Reserve Zone	2757500		X-IV	100-200	Yes	No
South Kazakhstan Reserve Zone	6258000		X-IV	200-300	Yes	No
Ustyurt Reserve	223342		I-XII	200-300 however, not every year so	During certain years	During certain years

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

Name	Size (ha)	IUCN category	Months saiga present	Estimated numbers	Rutting	Calving
*Yrgyz-Turgai Reserve Zone	6700000		I-XII	> 10000	Yes	Yes
*Zhaktyrkol Reserve Zone	1400 000		I-XII Not every year	> 5000	During certain years	Yes

* Zones not founded as yet

- 4.10. List key areas of saiga range lacking any protected areas.

North Ustyurt and northern adjacent areas

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?

In Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the Ustyurt population of saiga migrating from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan for the winter has been studied these recent two years within the INTAS [\[The International Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with Scientists from the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union\]](#) Project framework.

- 5.2 List any transboundary protected areas.

No

5.3 List any transboundary protected areas that are planned.

No plans in place as yet.

6. LAWS, INSTUTUTIONS & TRADE

6.1. List Government agencies active in saiga conservation and management and their functions related to saiga.

The Committee for Forest Management and Game Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture, RK

6.2. Has a national strategy or action plan for saiga been developed? Yes No
[Details]

Implementation is currently in progress of *The Years 2005-2007 Program for Conservation and Restoration of Rare and Extinct Ungulate Animal Species and Saiga* approved by RK Government Decree No. 267 dated 25 March 2005.

6.3. What is the legal status of saiga antelope?

Game animal

6.4. Provide details and references of relevant legislation.

Saiga is on *The List of Game Animals to Be Licence-Hunted in the Republic of Kazakhstan* approved by RK Government Decree No.1152 dated 16 August 1995.

6.5. How does current legislation regulate

– hunting of saiga antelope? **Hunting has been prohibited for the period of 1999 till 2011 by RK Government Decrees.**

– keeping and breeding of saiga antelopes?

A clause stipulating saiga breeding is included into *The Years 2005-2007 Program for Conservation and Restoration of Rare and Extinct Ungulate Animal Species and Saiga*, however, not implemented as yet.

– possession of saiga parts and derivatives?

– domestic trade in saiga parts and derivatives?

– import and (re-) export of saiga parts and derivatives, and live animals?

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.]

6.7. What penalties are applicable for infringements of the legislation?

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.

- 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.
- 6.10. What happens to confiscated parts and derivatives? Destroyed Stored
[Details]
- 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?
- 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.
- 6.13. What proportion of saiga range is covered by ranger or police patrols? [.....%]
- 6.14. Are these patrols effective in protecting saiga?
- 6.15. What resources (personnel, material, financial) are required to ensure effectiveness of the patrols?
- 6.16. Do patrols cover birthing and rutting areas? Yes No Partially N/A
[Details]
- 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/stabilized over the last three years?
- 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.
- 6.21. Provide details of the legal and illegal international trade in saiga products from your country during the last five years.
- 6.22. Give details of any socio-economic surveys carried out concerning poaching of and illegal trade in saiga antelope. [details, institution, date, results].
- 6.23. List any problems in implementing aspects of CITES relating to saiga antelopes.
- 6.24. Describe initiatives undertaken to facilitate alternative livelihoods in communities within saiga range.

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].
- 7.3. How many saiga are held in total and at individual centres?
- 7.4. Is reproduction successful? Yes No
[Details]

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

The Zoology Institute maintains contacts with the Wild Animal Breeding Centre in Kalmykia (Elista, Russia).

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]

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

7.9. Are any releases planned? Yes No
[Details]

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

A clause stipulating saiga breeding is included into the abovementioned *The Years 2005-2007 Program* however, not implemented as yet.

8. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

8.1. Describe the public's awareness regarding saiga.

These recent years, the attitude of a considerable part of the people towards saiga has changed and most people are aware of the need of preserving this animal species. However, many people still maintain consumerism regarding saiga which is further confirmed by the continued poaching in practically all the areas of this species' habitat.

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

Schools

General public

Press and Media

The Zoology Institute issued the *Saiga Preservation* poster (in 2004, in Kazakh and Russian); with the Zoology Institute officers participating, three films about saiga were shot by NHK of Japan (2002), Marathon Production of France (2004), and Gala-TV of Kazakhstan (2006).

TV interviews, radio and TV broadcasts, and mass-media publications are a regular practice.

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

Edda Schlager, a German presswoman, who participated in the Zoology Institute expedition devoted to saiga, twice placed information in the Internet in 2005-2006.

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

In 2004-2005, similar surveys were undertaken within the framework of the Darwin Initiative Project in Betpakdala and Ustyurt Regions.

9. ECOLOGICAL STUDIES

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

Studies were performed within the framework of the INTAS Project in 1999-2000 (The Report is available). On the whole, saiga habitat status in Kazakhstan is quite satisfactory.

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

Known, however varying from year to year.

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

Known, however varying from year to year

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

Undertaken in the past, but currently due to low populations of saiga and low domestic animals numbers such problem is non-existent.

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

Parasites and parasitic diseases were studied in detail as well as brucellosis, [pasteurellosis](#), and foot-and-mouth disease (publications and reports are available).

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

Annual reports on saiga are available from the Zoology Institute. Studies are ongoing.

Main publications:

1. A.B. Bekenov, Yu.A. Grachev & E.J. Milner-Gulland (1988). The Ecology and Management of the Saiga Antelope in Kazakhstan. *Mammal Review*, 28, 1-52
2. E.J. Milner-Gulland, M.V. Kholodova, O.M. Bukreyeva, Yu.A. Grachev, L. Amgalan & A.A. Lushchekina (2001). Dramatic Declines in Saiga Antelope Populations. *Orix* 35, 340-345
3. Yu. Grachev, A. Bekenov. Year 2004 Status of the Saiga Populations in Kazakhstan. *The Steppe Bulletin*, 2005, No. 17, P. 10-13 ... etc.

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

The main ones of these are due to abundance of snow (in 1972, 1975, 1988, 1993, 1996, etc.), [pasteurellosis](#) (in 1981, 1984, and 1988), and predators (to a lesser extent).

- 9.8. What are the main natural predators?

The wolf, and to a lesser degree – the fox and eagles (for saiga calves)

- 9.9. Are there any predator control programmes in the saiga's range? Yes No
[Details]

These recent 5 to 6 years, prize money is paid for wolf shooting (funded on the annual basis via OkhotZooProm LLP)

10. THREATS

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

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

11. ACTION

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

New specifically protected areas to be established and captive breeding of saiga to be practiced.

12. OTHER MEASURES

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

Data provided by A. Bekenov, Professor and Yu. Grachev, [Doctor of Science](#) (Zoology Institute, MES, RK)