

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:	<i>Turkmenistan</i>	
1.2.	Designated Focal Point with responsibility to co-ordinate MoU implementation (full contact details):	Chichayev Geldi – Deputy Head of the Animal and Plant Protection Department of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan. Postal address: 102, Kemine Str., 744000, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, tel: (+99312) 39-60-02, fax: (+99312) 39-31-84.	
1.3.	Date submitted:	<u>18/07/2006</u>	dd/mm/yyyy
1.4.	Period covered by the report:	<u>2000</u>	<u>2006</u>
		From dd/mm/yyyy to dd/mm/yyyy	
1.5.	List of other agencies or NGOs that have provided input to this report:	<i>State agencies (Ministry of Nature Protection and its subdivisions: National Institute of Deserts, Flora & Fauna, Kaplankyr State Reserve, regional nature protection departments</i>	

2. CMS MoU

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

2.2. Date signed: 23/11/2005
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] 11-3

3.3. Current total population estimate. *In some years there are up to 2,000 saigas wintering in Turkmenistan.*

3.4. Overall population trend Up Down Stable Mixed Unknown

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

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

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

Kaplankyr State Reserve

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.

Kaplankyr State Reserve

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

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

3.13. Date of most recent monitoring effort: _____
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?

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

The saiga is included in the Red Book of Turkmenistan as a species reduced in population size (the second category)

4. HABITAT

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

The basic saiga habitats in Turkmenistan have not been subjected to degradation

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

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).

There are no significant barriers for migration of saiga in Turkmenistan.

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? [.....%]

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
Kaplankyr State Reserve	282,0	I	XI-III			
Sarykamysh Sanctuary	551,0		XI-III			
Shasenem Sanctuary	169,0		XI-III			

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
Ustyurt Sanctuary	150 ha		XI-III	2		

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

The bilateral agreement between Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan on conservation of a saiga is prepared

5.2. List any transboundary protected areas.

At present time there are no transboundary protected areas (where saiga appears) in Turkmenistan

5.3. List any transboundary protected areas that are planned.

In future creation of Ustyurt Sanctuary is planned.

6. LAWS, INSTUTUTIONS & TRADE

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

All actions related to conservation of saiga are carried out and coordinated by Ministry of Nature Protection

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

6.3. What is the legal status of saiga antelope?

The saiga is included in the national Red Book and any activity connected with its catching is forbidden

6.4. Provide details and references of relevant legislation.

The law "About protection and rational use of fauna ", The order "About opening a season of hunting " annually published by Minister of Wildlife Management

- 6.5. How does current legislation regulate
- hunting of saiga antelope?
 - keeping and breeding of saiga antelopes?
 - 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?

Catching, trade, import and export of a saiga of equally and its parts completely forbidden

- 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.]

Ministry of Nature Protection and its subdivisions (reserves, regional departments)

- 6.7. What penalties are applicable for infringements of the legislation?
Statement #87² up to 10 min. wages. The claim for caused damage is 1000 thousand mantas (200\$)
- 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.
No
- 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?
Yes
Have they received training in identifying saiga parts and derivatives?
No

- 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.
Seasonal surveying
- 6.13. What proportion of saiga range is covered by ranger or police patrols? [.....%]
30-40%?
- 6.14. Are these patrols effective in protecting saiga?
Yes
- 6.15. What resources (personnel, material, financial) are required to ensure effectiveness of the patrols?
First of all, vehicles with the raised passableness are necessary
- 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?
Saiga antelopes are poached because of meat. For last 3 years saigas seldom migrate on territory of Turkmenistan therefore difficultly to answer.
- 6.19. What is the estimated proportion of illegal hunting for horns [.....%]; for meat [.....%]; or for both [.....%]?
20%
- 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?
- 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]

8. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- 8.1. Describe the public's awareness regarding saiga.
Consecutive work on mass-media on conservation of a saiga is conducted (radio, TV, newspapers, magazines, lectures, etc.)
- 8.2. Describe educational and publicity materials and programmes that have been developed for:
- Schools
- General public
- Press and Media
- 8.3. Is any information available on the Internet? Yes No
[Details]
Information on the Internet is only available to specialists and officials of Institute and Reserves.
- 8.4. List any surveys carried out to assess changes in public attitudes to saiga.
Surveys are carried out on the basis of personal meeting with local population

9. ECOLOGICAL STUDIES

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

Data concern to 20-years prescription

- 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]
More profound ecological studies for last 10 years were not carried out
- 9.7. Are the causes of natural mortality understood? Yes No
[Details]
- 9.8. What are the main natural predators?
Wolf
- 9.9. Are there any predator control programmes in the saiga's range? Yes No
[Details]

10. THREATS

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

	Nil	Low	Medium	High	Very high	Unknown
Hunting for meat						
Hunting for horns/trade		√				
Habitat loss		√				
Livestock competition		√				
Disease						
Climate						√
Climate						√
Predation				√		

Fragmentation		√				
Demographic factors		√				
Barriers to migration		√				
Other (Please specify)						

11. ACTION

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

12. OTHER MEASURES

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