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CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE (CAMI)

Summary

In response to multiple mandates (notably Concerted and Cooperative Actions, Rec.8.23 and Rec.9.1, Res.10.3 and Res.10.9), CMS has strengthened its work for the conservation of large mammals in the central Asian region and developed the concept of the *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)*.

This document explains the rationale for developing this initiative, outlining:

(i)   the importance of migratory mammals in the region;
(ii)   COP decisions mandating CMS to strengthen its work for their conservation;
(iii)   activities that are being carried out on single species and to address major threats; and
(iv)   an explanation of the concept proposed with the *CAMI* as a regional initiative, including a description of the process to assess conservation gaps and needs and to develop a programme of work as a strategic framework document associated with the *CAMI*.

TIME FOR ACTION!

CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE (CAMI)

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

Introduction

1.   Since the entry on duty of a Regional Officer for Central Asia (a Junior Professional Officer funded by the German Government) in October 2010, the Secretariat has been able to make progress in the implementation of a number of instruments and mandates relevant for species occurring in the central Asian region.

2.   This document outlines the activities that are being carried out within the CMS framework with regard to the conservation of large mammals and their habitat in central Asia. It starts with an overview on the importance of central Asia for large mammal migrations, the different mandates that have led CMS to focus its engagement in this region, the activities that are being carried out on single species and to address major threats, followed by an explanation of the concept to develop a coherent framework for implementing these activities, provisionally called the *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)*. Finally, the process towards developing this initiative is described, which includes the development of a programme of work based on an assessment of conservation gaps and needs.

Importance of the region for migratory mammals

3.   The central Asian region harbours the largest intact and still interconnected grasslands worldwide. It is of global importance for many migratory mammals, which rely on large steppe, desert and mountain ecosystems that still enable essential long-distance movements and ensure their long-term survival. Mass migrants in this region include CMS-listed species such as Saiga *Saiga spp.*, Mongolian gazelle *Procapra gutturosa* and Kulan *Equus hemionus*.

4.   Facing varying environmental conditions across space and time that define habitable areas, these species depend on moving freely over long distances, including across international borders. The region is one of the world's last remaining hotspots of large ungulate migrations, which are both a wonderful spectacle and a key structuring force for the ecosystems, often referred to as the "Serengeti of the North".

5.   While the expanse, remoteness and difficult terrain of the region have still left large parts mostly untouched by modern civilization, migratory mammals are in decline, with some species having undergone dramatic population reductions in recent decades. Saiga Antelope populations for instance have declined by 95 per cent in ten years following the collapse of the Soviet Union due to excessive poaching and trade in the species' meat and horn.

6.   The situation is about to deteriorate further since central Asia is not only rich in biodiversity, but also rich in oil and gas, metals and coal. Numerous long-distance railways and road networks are being constructed to provide the infrastructure for the large-scale extraction of natural resources and economic development, leading to widespread destruction and fragmentation of grasslands and ecosystems. Many migration routes are at risk of becoming bisected by railways, fences and pipelines causing barriers to essential movements to feeding and breeding grounds. Poaching, habitat degradation from overgrazing by livestock and conversion to agriculture, overhunting, illegal trade and potentially climate change put

further pressure on the animals. Because many populations are already small, the impact of these various threats is likely to be further exacerbated.

7.   There is thus an urgent need for science-based and internationally coordinated conservation measures across Range States, ensuring the survival of the species, their migrations and habitats, as well as sustainable benefits to people.

Concerted and Cooperative Actions: Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals

8.   Most of the terrestrial migratory mammal species occurring in the region are already listed on the Appendices of the CMS. These include the Bukhara/Yarkand deer *Cervus elaphus yarkandensis* (which is listed on both Appendix I and II), Wild camel *Camelus bactrianus*, Wild yak *Bos grunniens*, Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* and the Snow leopard *Uncia uncial,* which are listed on CMS Appendix I. The last four of these are also designated for Concerted Action, thereby prioritizing these amongst all Appendix I species for particular attention (UNEP/CMS/Res.10.23). A further six species, the Saiga Antelope *Saiga spp.*, Kiang *Equus kiang,* Argali *Ovis ammon*, Mongolian gazelle *Procapra gutturosa*, Goitered gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*, and the Kulan *Equus hemionus* are listed on CMS Appendix II with the last four being designated for Cooperative Action (UNEP/CMS/Res.10.23).

9.   With Recommendations 8.23 and 9.1, CMS Parties recognized that most Eurasian migratory mammals are in a "profoundly unsatisfactory state of conservation" and that the region's "arid lands, with their exceptional natural and cultural heritage and their unique migration phenomena, are a crucial area for the action of the Convention". The Recommendations also requested the Scientific Council, in cooperation with the Secretariat, the Government of Mongolia and other concerned Parties to pursue the Central Eurasian Aridland Concerted Action and associated Cooperative Action, including the development of an Action Plan and status reports for all species concerned.

10.   A first draft of an Action Plan was tabled at the 17th Meeting of the Scientific Council in 2011 (CMS/ScC17/Doc.13). While urging for more action on Central Asian mammals, the meeting however did not reach agreement on the finalization of the document. This Concerted and Cooperative Action constitutes the main reference and starting point for developing the proposed *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)*, which is described in more detail below.

Existing single-species instruments

11.   In addition, a number of activities and instruments have been developed under CMS for the conservation of single species. Through the Saiga Antelope and the Bukhara Deer MoUs, CMS is already working together with many countries and organizations in the region to enhance the conservation of those species and their habitat and to tackle common threats, such as from overexploitation, illegal trade, infrastructure development and mining. See also document UNEP/CMS/StC41/18 for more details on the activities to implement these MoUs.

12.   The Secretariat, in cooperation with range states and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) has also initiated the development of an international single-species action plan for the conservation of Argali *Ovis ammon* following the listing on Appendix II at COP10 (see Action Plan as UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Doc.5.1.3). Discussions are ongoing to identify a suitable coordination mechanism to ensure sustainable implementation of the Action Plan, possibly in the frame of the *CAMI* (see also

UNEP/CMS/StC40/Doc.21.a Annex). However, even as a stand-alone tool the action plan is seen as a useful common reference for Range States to align their management and conservation actions for Argali, and improve their trans-boundary cooperation.

Addressing common threats to migratory mammals in the region

13.   In addition to activities focused on single species, the Secretariat has been active to address urgent and major threats faced by all or most of the species, such as overexploitation and illegal trade in cooperation with CITES[1] and TRAFFIC[2]. The CMS CITES Joint Work Programme 2012-2014, for example, covers close collaboration on the Saiga Antelope and Snow leopards, as well as a suite of other illegal trade matters (UNEP/CMS/StC38/Doc.3). CMS has also been particular active to address the rapid growth of linear infrastructure in the region in order to understand and reduce its impact on migratory mammals. Removing barriers to migration has become a key priority for the conservation and free movement of many steppe and mountain ungulates.

14.   Together with the German and Mongolian Governments, CMS organized a workshop to address the impacts from mining and infrastructure on migratory mammals, resulting in a Declaration of Intent and associated Action Plan. Under the Saiga MoU, a study has been initiated to assess the impact of a border fence and railroad construction in Kazakhstan on Saiga and develop recommendations for mitigating these. Addressing habitat fragmentation from these barriers to migration also contributes to the implementation of Res.10.3 on ecological networks. Conservation guidelines to mitigate the impact of linear infrastructure on migratory mammals in Central Asia are currently being developed and will be tabled for adoption at COP11 (see UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.2).

The CMS Future Shape Process

15.   In addition to these regional, species- and instrument-related mandates, the decisions taken by CMS Parties on the Future Shape of CMS have also been guiding the work of the Secretariat in central Asia. With Res.10.9 on future strategies and structure of CMS and the CMS Family, CMS Parties adopted a set of prioritized activities to strengthen the Convention's contribution to the worldwide conservation, management and sustainable use of migratory species over their entire range.

16.   The following activities, annexed to Res.10.9 and covering the nine-year mandate of the Future Shape, are of particular relevance with regard to the work of the Convention in central Asia, and for developing the *CAMI*:

- *Activity 2: Improved partnership working, including to encourage more NGOs and private sector to become engaged in Agreements and MoUs (2.2);*

- *Activity 8: Identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography, including to regionalize conservation efforts by having local coordinators with assistance from UNEP, NGOs and MEAs, leading to greater presence in each of the regions if appropriate. (8.1and 8.2);*

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1   CITES – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.
2   TRAFFIC - The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network.

- ***Activity 11:*** *Seek opportunities to coordinate meetings between institutions, working groups and across the CMS Family agreements;*

- ***Activity 15:*** *Enhanced collaboration between CMS agreements via Secretariats or via merger of agreements based on either geography/ecology or on species clusters, including cooperation and coordination between agreement programmes and projects based on species clustering, thematic issues or geography as appropriate (15.1);*

The concept of the *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)*

17.   Against this background, the Secretariat has worked towards reconciling the different mandates in order to use available synergies and achieve more efficient implementation, resulting in the concept for a regional initiative, provisionally called the *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)*. *CAMI* follows up directly from the Future Shape process calling for geographic synergies and cost-effective implementation of overlapping mandates. Due to a strong emphasis on synergies, it is further designed to strengthen collaboration with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, NGOs and other bodies engaged in large mammal conservation in the region.

18.   With a view to complying with Res.10.9, and to harmonizing implementation of the different mandates and instruments, and after consultations between the Secretariat and the Chair of the Scientific Council in early 2012, it was envisaged to further develop the existing draft Action Plan (see paragraph 10) as a strategic framework document, possibly in the form of a programme of work that outlines conservation gaps and needs, common problems and proposed conservation actions. Such a document should take into account and increase synergies between the existing MoUs and reduce overlap in addressing similar problems.

19.   With funding from the Swiss Government and the European Union via the GIZ, the Secretariat was able to initiate a process which was already presented at the 40th and 41th Standing Committee Meetings, and which aims at developing a programme of work (POW) by ensuring participation, input and support of Range States and other relevant stakeholders. The provisional working title *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)* was chosen by the Secretariat as a common reference for this process, which includes the following activities:

19.1   Conducting a gap analysis and needs assessment, including status reports of prioritized central Asian migratory mammals to obtain a comprehensive picture of the situation in the region and to identify priorities for conservation. Range states and a large number of relevant experts were engaged in the process, and national stakeholder consultation meetings organized in several countries to provide feedback on the assessment and input for the POW[3]. The full draft assessment was presented to the 18th Meeting of the Scientific Council on 1-3 July 2014 as document UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.5.1.1.

19.2   Based on this comprehensive assessment, development of a POW as a coherent regional strategy to guide implementation of CMS and its instruments and mandates. A draft version is contained as an Annex to this Document to be considered for adoption with the associated Draft Resolution.

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[3]   At the time of writing, national stakeholder meetings are foreseen to take place in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in mid-May 2014. Organizing these meetings was possible due to the presence of the GIZ in these countries, which provided essential in-kind and financial support.

19.3   Organization of a meeting of Range States and national and international stakeholders to review, finalize and approve the POW, to identify priority activities, agree on coordination arrangements and financial mechanisms to ensure sustainable implementation, and to review the supporting Draft Resolution (annexed to this document). The Government of Kyrgyzstan has kindly offered to host this meeting, which is scheduled to take place on 23-25 September 2014 in Bishkek. A pre-COP training workshop for CMS Parties in central Asia will be convened back-to-back on 25-28 September.

20.   In November 2013, the CMS Secretariat in close cooperation with the GIZ Regional Programme for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia, commissioned a consultant to undertake the gaps and needs assessment and to draft the POW. This assignment comprised a participatory consultation and review process with Range States and stakeholders, including online questionnaires, face-to-face interviews, group discussions and national stakeholder meetings in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The GIZ, within the framework of the EU-sponsored FLERMONECA project[4], has hired national ERCA coordinators in five countries to facilitate national consultations and to support all other CMS related activities.

21.   Through these national coordinators, the Secretariat is implementing activity 8.1 of Res.10.9 and is increasing the presence of CMS regionally and nationally, which greatly supports the dialogue process initiated with the *CAMI* and the production of above mentioned documents. Already, this dialogue and consultation have stimulated discussion on how to improve implementation of CMS in the region and constitutes a major outreach event that contributes to increasing awareness and understanding of the Convention.

Discussion on the taxonomic and geographic scope

22.   While a number of instruments for the conservation of migratory birds in central Asia have been developed under CMS, including the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for Migratory Waterbirds, the Siberian Crane MoU and the Birds of Prey MoU, the above mentioned initiative only covers terrestrial mammals. This is due to the differences between these two taxonomic groups in terms of threats and ecology of the species, Government focal points and overall stakeholders involved. Synergies are therefore less evident, and covering all migratory species would risk becoming too complex, also reducing options for concrete joint actions.

23.   The *CAMI* is meant to be open for migratory mammals that would benefit from a transboundary, multi-lateral approach to conservation and management. However, due to the limited financial and human resources available for the gaps and needs assessment, an attempt was made to narrow down the taxonomic scope to priority species with a particular focus on CMS-listed species.

24.   Currently, the initiative covers the above mentioned eleven mammal species which are already listed on the CMS Appendices. In addition to the CMS-listing, further selection

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4   The EU Regional Project Forest and Biodiversity Governance Including Environmental Monitoring (FLERMONECA) implemented by GIZ consists of the following components (1) Forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG); (2) Ecosystem Restoration in Central Asia (ERCA); and (3) Environmental Monitoring in Central Asia (MONECA). The project aims at two objectives: enhancing the regional cooperation between the Central Asian countries as well as between the Central Asian countries and the EU in the fields mentioned. Supporting the implementation of the CMS is a core issue of the ERCA component.

criteria have been developed, resulting in the identification of three additional species to be covered, and which are not yet listed on the CMS Appendices:

24.1   Chiru *Pantholops hodgsonii.* <u>Selection criteria:</u> Long distance migrant in central Asia with transboundary populations.

24.2   Przewalski's horse *Equus ferus przewalskii,* Tibetan gazelle *Procapra picticaudata.* <u>Selection criteria:</u> Species with one or more potential transboundary population that share more or less the same range as the CMS-listed species and which face similar threats; in short, species, the addition of which would probably mean little extra effort in terms of their conservation.

25.   The distribution of the currently selected priority species comprises the following 14 countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, INDIA, IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF), KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, MONGOLIA, Nepal, PAKISTAN, the Russian Federation, TAJIKISTAN, Turkmenistan and UZBEKISTAN[5]. For the Cheetah, only Asian populations are being considered. Two other species, the Kulan and in particular the Goitered gazelle also occur in more countries, with the range of the Goitered gazelle extending to the Caucasus and West Asian region, including the Arabian peninsula. These regions are however not covered by the current frame of the initiative, due to the many ecological, historical, socio-economic and political differences which make it more difficult to kick-start effective regional cooperation and implementation of a joint POW (see also UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.5.1.1).

26.   While with these 14 countries, the POW already covers a vast geographic area, the overall concept of the initiative is meant to be open, inclusive and participatory, leaving room and potential for spill-over effects and inclusion of further countries, depending on the interest of the countries as well as on available financial and human resources.

27.   The gaps and needs assessment only focused on ten countries, excluding Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan. The reason for this is that while several of the selected species also occur in those four countries, with only few exceptions, these populations are rather small. Furthermore, due to financial and time constraints, it was necessary to keep the amount of information and complexity of issues and stakeholders involved at a manageable level. Assessing conservation gaps and needs to the appropriate level of detail in all 14 countries, was beyond the human and financial capacities available for the assignment.

Coordination requirements

28.   As explained above, the *CAMI* does not aim at setting up an additional instrument which would risk further increasing the workload of the Secretariat. Instead, it aims at more efficient implementation of existing instruments and mandates. However, should central Asian countries wish to further formalize their cooperation through developing a legal instrument under CMS, will this be possible in accordance with the criteria for new agreements to be considered for adoption at COP11.

29.   The successful implementation of the proposed *CAMI* and the associated POW will depend on the long-term commitment of the governments concerned, including the provision of adequate financial and in-kind resources. In addition, coordination is required to stimulate

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[5]   Countries in capital letters are Parties to CMS as of 1 May 2014.

and maintain progress in implementation *inter alia* by facilitating communication and exchange of information and best practice, convening of regular meetings, securing of funding for activities and by coordinating the monitoring and revision of the POW.

30.   Options for establishing a coordination mechanism might include outsourcing technical coordination to partner NGOs and/or a committed Range State, or setting up a working group consisting of representatives from range states, relevant organizations and international experts. The options for setting up an effective coordination mechanism including developing terms of reference will be subject for discussion at the range states and stakeholder meeting scheduled for September.

31.   Regardless of which option for coordination will be chosen, all such arrangements will require a certain level of supervision and guidance from the Secretariat, currently provided by the Officer for Central Asia, whose contract however expires by October 2014. After that, the capacity of the Secretariat will not allow taking up this task and therefore the establishment of the post of an Officer for Central Asia as of 1 January 2015 will be proposed for adoption by COP11. The Secretariat is grateful for the voluntary funding provided so far that allowed all recent activities undertaken in the region and is in the process of seeking *Champions* for the implementation of *CAMI*.

Conclusion

32.   The concept of the *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)* has been developed to strengthen the implementation of CMS and its instruments and to thereby improve the conservation of migratory mammals and their habitat in central Asia. The initiative includes the development of a gap and needs assessment and a programme of work through a full participatory consultation process with Range States and stakeholders, including national stakeholder meetings as well as a meeting of the Range States.

33.   The concept of the *CAMI* and the associated Draft Resolution were discussed at the 18th Meeting of the Scientific Council in Bonn, Germany (1-3 July 2014), which broadly welcomed the initiative and supported the associated Draft Resolution with minor amendments.

34.   Through this CAMI, the Secretariat aims at achieving multiple objectives, including

34.1   implementation of various Concerted and Cooperative Actions for a number of species, including Rec.8.23 and Rec.9.1;

34.2   strengthen implementation of existent species MoUs and Action Plans, such as on the Saiga Antelope, the Bukhara Deer and the Argali;

34.3   implementation of several activities outlined in Res.10.9 on the Future Shape of CMS and the CMS Family; and

34.4   Streamline human and financial resources available for servicing MoUs and implementing above mentioned mandates both within and outside the Secretariat.

Action requested:

The Conference of the Parties is invited to:

(a)   Take note and comment on the progress made towards implementing the Convention and its instruments in central Asia.

(b)   Endorse the concept of the *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)*.

(c)   Adopt the Draft Resolution on the *CAMI* contained in the Annex of this document.

ANNEX

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THE CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE

Deeply concerned that large mammal migrations in one of the last remaining regions supporting long-distance movements, the central Asian plains and mountains, are severely threatened by overexploitation of wildlife as well as exploitation of minerals and other natural resources and that the habitats upon which large mammals depend are becoming lost, degraded and fragmented at an unprecedented rate;

Recognizing that extractive industries, infrastructure and fences can have a particularly detrimental impact on the conservation status of migratory mammals and may cause direct mortality and fragmentation of habitats, disrupting essential movement from one place to another and *further recognizing* the urgent need for practical guidelines to mitigate impacts on migratory mammals from mining and infrastructure, including the threat from increased human habitation and associated poaching threats, along infrastructure routes, not only in central Asia, but across the wider Asian region;

Aware that long-distance movements of many species are unpredictable, which increases the need to maintain the permeability of large landscapes;

Aware that migratory species and their habitats provide essential ecosystem services as well as cultural heritage value and economic benefits for instance through sustainable use and tourism, and that many human communities directly and indirectly rely on the availability of large mammal species and on intact ecosystems for their livelihoods;

Acknowledging the Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals Concerted Action established by Recommendations 8.23 and 9.1, which highlights the exceptional importance of Eurasian arid ecosystems for migratory species and the crucial role of CMS in conserving them, covering in particular five large mammal species listed on Appendix I ([four] of these designated for Concerted Action)[1], and a further six on Appendix II ([four] of these designated for Cooperative Action)[2];

Further acknowledging the multiple mandates of CMS to work in the region, including Memoranda of Understanding covering the Saiga Antelope and Bukhara Deer;

Noting that most of the species in the Central Asia region listed in the Appendices of CMS are also included in the Appendices of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), thus offering opportunities for synergy as envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Work Programme between the Secretariats of the two Conventions;

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[1] Appendix I - Bukhara/Yarkand deer *Cervus elaphus yarkandensis* (listed on both Appendices, not designated for Concerted Action), Wild camel *Camelus bactrianus*, Wild yak *Bos grunniens*, Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus,* Snow leopard *Uncia uncial.*

[2] Appendix II - Saiga antelope *Saiga spp.*, Kiang *Equus kiang,* Argali *Ovis ammon*, Mongolian gazelle *Procapra gutturosa*, Goitered gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*, Kulan *Equus hemionus* (the latter four designated for Cooperative Action).

Noting with satisfaction the progress made since COP10 in implementing these mandates, in particular the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali *Ovis ammon* (CMS/UNEP/COP11/Doc.23.3.3), and the assessment of conservation gaps and needs (CMS/UNEP/COP11/Inf.21) and the Programme of Work, developed in preparation of a broader initiative to comprise all activities aimed at conserving large migratory mammals and implementing CMS in the central Asian region;

Recalling the decisions under the Future Shape process, including activities 8 and 15 under Res.10.9 urging Parties to "identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography", and "to seek opportunities to develop synergistic relationships either based on geography or species clustering", such as with the development of a common conservation programme;

Taking into account the Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards and the comprehensive, long-term Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme adopted by Range States at the Global Snow Leopard Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic in October 2013, which called upon all Range States to declare the year of 2015 as the International Year of the Snow Leopard, and October 23 as an annually celebrated Snow Leopard Day;

Grateful for the financial and in-kind support from the Governments of Switzerland and Germany and the European Union through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) in pursuing the work for the conservation of migratory mammals in the central Asian region; and

Further grateful to the Kyrgyz Government for hosting the Stakeholder Meeting on the Conservation of Large Mammals in Central Asia on 23-25 September 2014 in Bishkek, which developed the Programme of Work for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative;

The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

1. *Adopts* the Programme of Work for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative contained in the Annex to this Resolution and *endorses* the concept of the *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)* as an innovative and integrative approach building on a regional programme, that identifies synergies based on common or shared work programmes, geography, species and interests in line with Future Shape decisions, to enhance cooperation and coordination at the local, regional and international level, to minimize institutional overlap and to improve efficient implementation of CMS and its instruments on large mammals in the region;

2. *Further adopts* the Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia contained in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.2;

3. *Also adopts* the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali *Ovis ammon* contained in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.3;

4. *Instructs* the Secretariat subject to funding, to take up the role of coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Work to establish a post for an officer within the CMS

Secretariat to coordinate the CAMI, including to support the implementation of relevant MoUs, Single Species Action Plans such as for the Argali and other CMS mandates;

5.   *Requests* Parties and *invites* all Range States, partner organizations, donors and the private sector to engage in the CAMI and to provide the financial or in-kind resources to support its coordination and full and timely implementation;

6.   *Calls upon* Range States to strengthen their transboundary cooperation, *inter alia* by using existing international and regional fora; and

7.   *Instructs* the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to continue and strengthen efforts to collaborate with other relevant international fora with a view to strengthening synergies and implementation of CMS and the CAMI in these fora.

Annex to Draft Resolution

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE (2014-2020)

I.   Introduction

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 mammals[1] 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.10.3).

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.

The initiative has so far produced the following:

1.   An assessment of gaps and needs of migratory mammal conservation in Central Asia (Karlstetter & Mallon 2014), which included a stakeholder survey, online questionnaire and interviews in Afghanistan, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in February and March 2014, and national consultation meetings in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in May and June 2014 (the assessment is available as UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.21).

2.   Based on the results of this assessment, the following outputs have been produced:

   a.   A compilation of key actions that stakeholders identified as important for the conservation of migratory mammals across the region; and

   b.   A draft joint Programme of Work (POW) for the CAMI, which was developed during the Stakeholder Meeting on the Conservation of Large Mammals in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (23-25 September 2014).

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[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).

II. Taxonomic and geographical scope

CAMI currently addresses 15 species, selected based on the following criteria[2]:

1. Listing on the Appendices of CMS:
    Appendix 1: Bukhara/Yarkand deer *Cervus elaphus yarkandensis* (also listed on Appendix II), wild camel *Camelus bactrianus*, wild yak *Bos grunniens*, snow leopard *Uncia uncia*, cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*
    Appendix 2: Saiga *Saiga tatarica* and *S. borealis mongolica*, argali *Ovis ammon*, Mongolian gazelle *Procapra gutturosa*, goitered gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*, kulan *Equus hemionus*, kiang *Equus kiang*

2. Other long-distance migrants of Central Asia not listed under CMS: chiru *Pantholops hodgsonii*

3. Species that have transboundary populations (today or possibly in future) and have more or less the same range as species listed above: Przewalski's horse *Equus caballus przewalskii*, Tibetan gazelle *Procapra picticaudata*

4. The chinkara (jebeer gazelle) *Gazella bennettii* was formally added during the Regional Stakeholder Meeting in Bishkek (23-25 September 2014)

In the Central Asian region these 15 species occur in the following 14 Range States:

Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

III. Vision, Goal and Objectives of the POW

Following the recommendations from the assessment mentioned above, the POW has the following Vision, Goal and Objectives:

Vision:

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:

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

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[2] The standard taxonomic reference for mammals under CMS is Wilson & Reeder (2005).

Objectives:

1. To address main threats and issues currently not (sufficiently) covered by existing work programmes and stakeholders.
2. To guide planning and implementation of prioritized conservation actions on a regional scale.
3. To facilitate knowledge exchange, communication and the promotion of synergies.
4. To support implementation, coordination and resourcing of the CAMI.

IV. Structure of a draft POW

The draft POW (Table 1) is structured around the Goal and Objectives. The main issues identified under each Objective have been developed based on the outcomes of the assessment process. Activities, and to some extent the respective responsibilities and priorities, were identified during the Stakeholder Meeting on the Conservation of Large Mammals in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (23-25 September 2014).

The POW covers the period of 2014 to 2020 in line with the triennial cycle of the CMS Conference of the Parties. A revision of the assessment of gaps and needs of migratory mammal conservation in Central Asia and the POW should be undertaken in 2020.

Table 1: Draft Programme of Work

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

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

Issue	Activity	Responsible	Priority
1.1. Illegal hunting and trade	1.1.1. Strengthen the capacity of rangers and other relevant enforcement personnel to counteract illegal hunting and trade and secure necessary funding (i.e. human resources, equipment, training).	Government agencies, NGOs	High
	1.1.2. Promote review of national legislation - and its enforcement - on hunting and trade (including relevant penalties, the simplification of prosecution, enforce bonus payment systems to create adequate incentives for enforcement personnel and reinvest fines in conservation) as well as compliance with CITES (and ratification of CITES by those States who are not a party yet).	Government agencies	High
	1.1.3. Promote regular and sound monitoring of species in order to guide, where applicable, sustainable and coordinate off-take of huntable species.	Government agencies, Scientific institutions, NGOs	High
	1.1.4. Improve inter-agency communication and cooperation (i.e. multi-agency task forces) at the national and regional level concerning scientific, management and enforcement issues (e.g. through the development of a Wildlife Enforcement Network and greater cooperation with customs).	Government agencies, Scientific institutions	High/medium
	1.1.5. Promote the use of new technologies, methods and tools for enforcement (use of SMART, sniffer dogs, risk assessments).	Government agencies, NGOs	High/medium
	1.1.6. Promote information exchange across range, transit and consumer states to counteract illegal hunting and trade and ensure adequate information is available on trophy hunting regulations.	Government agencies, NGOs, TRAFFIC (tbc), CITES (tbc)	High/medium

	1.1.7. Assess feasibility of trophy hunting for huntable species covered under CAMI across the Central Asian region, looking at accruing benefits for local communities, as well as relevant legislation.	Government agencies, NGOs	Medium
	1.1.8. Secure public support for addressing illegal hunting and trade through outreach and development of "citizen/informant networks".	Government agencies, NGOs	Medium
	1.1.9. Explore other sustainable wildlife use options (i.e. subsistence hunting, 'green hunting' - photography) that create incentives for conservation and review according legislation.	Government agencies, NGOs	Medium
	1.1.10. Rotate hunting areas to avoid over-use of animals in one area.	Government agencies, NGOs	Medium
1.2. Overgrazing and livestock competition	1.2.1 Develop methodology for research and monitoring based on examples of best practice on a) pasture productivity, b) pasture suitability, and c) disease transmission.	Government agencies, Scientific Institutions, NGOs	High
	1.2.2. Review and modify existing grazing norms (both legal and customary) based on e.g. carrying capacity and wildlife habitat hotspots.	Government agencies, Scientific Institutions, INGO's	Medium
	1.2.3. Improve livestock breeding programmes to address overstocking of pastures (focusing on breeds promoting e.g. herd health, productivity and product diversity).	Government agencies, Scientific Institutions, NGOs	High
	1.2.4. Develop and promote awareness and educational programmes on wildlife protection among herding communities.	NGOs, Government agencies (e.g. education ministries)	High
	1.2.5. Promote sustainable livelihood activities in herding communities to reduce focus on livestock as their main asset.	NGOs, Businesses	High
	1.2.6. Establish joint ministerial working groups (committees) to address pasture use and wildlife protection issues.	Government agencies facilitated by NGOs	High
	1.2.7. Establish and promote volunteer ranger mechanism to create rewards/incentives in herding communities residing near wildlife/protected areas/ecological corridors.	Government agencies, local communities, NGOs	Medium

	1.2.8. Where possible, minimize grazing on migration routes by livestock.	Government agencies, Scientific Institutions, NGOs, herders	High
	1.2.9. Explore options of insuring livestock against natural disasters.	Government agencies, Insurance sector	Medium
	1.2.10. Improve pasture quality and productivity and provide alternative "non-pasture" feeding sources for grazing livestock where feasible.	Government agencies, Scientific Institutions	Medium

1.3. Industry and infrastructure development/ barriers to movement	1.3.1. Make species- and landscape-specific knowledge available, specifically:
	
	  a) develop common standards for maps,
	
	  b) develop maps (layers) per country per species (identify key areas),
	
	  c) develop and update map layers on existing and planned potential barriers,
	
	  d) make maps (GIS) available at national, bilateral and regional level,
	
	  e) develop species-specific factsheets (incl. behaviour, ecology, etc.), and
	
	  f) identify knowledge gaps and initiate targeted applied research.
		CMS, UNEP-WCMC (tbc), Government agencies, National scientific institutions, NGOs	High (a)
			
			High/medium (b, c, d)
			
			Medium (e)

	1.3.2. Increase public-awareness on barriers to migration, specifically:
	
	  a) raise awareness of the broad public on benefits from migratory species,
	
	  b) raise awareness of the broad public on impacts of barriers on migratory species and possible solutions, and
	
	  c) conduct information campaigns targeted at decision makers in government, sector and technical agencies.
		CMS, Government agencies, National scientific institutions, NGOs, mass-media	High

	1.3.3. Promote the knowledge and application of technical solutions, specifically:
	
	  a) document technical solutions for specific cases (species, landscape and type of barrier),
	
	  b) establish a knowledge exchange platform (or use of existing ones),
	
	  c) document and monitor impacts and effectiveness of technical solutions, and
	
	  d) include the topic of barriers to migration into relevant university curricula.
		CMS, Government agencies, National scientific institutions, NGOs	High

	1.3.4. Address political issues, specifically: a) establish national and bi-lateral multi-agency task force on border fences (including border security agencies, customs, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, environmental/wildlife agencies, international finance institutions), b) establish national multi-agency task force on big infrastructure projects (i.e. transportation and other relevant ministries), c) integrate migratory species conservation into national EIA regulations and implementation, and d) integrate migratory species conservation into requirements of international financing institutions.	CMS, National focal points, Government agencies, National scientific institutions, NGOs	High/medium
1.4. Good governance of natural resource management/ policy and legislation	1.4.1. Develop/review the existing policies and regulatory frameworks that affect migratory and transboundary species (or policies that create known/identified threats) which are of interest to CMS to address gaps.	Government agencies, National focal points	High
	1.4.2. Identify if the problems exist at the local level or at national level and where the policies are in conflict with each other.	Government agencies, NGOs	High/medium
	1.4.3. Facilitate or support a regional or issue level expert working group meeting that is tasked with developing a strategy for scaling up national policies to a regional level (National, bilateral, trilateral etc.) to harmonize/coordinate differing policies.	CMS, Government agencies	High/medium
	1.4.4. Provide the CAMI POW to multinational forums such as South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation, Shanghai Cooperation and others, in order to promote compliance with the POW and CMS requirements.	INGO, CMS, Government agencies	Medium
	1.4.5. Involve transport infrastructure, agriculture, border defence sectors, (e.g. OSCE, CAREC, FAO) in CMS relevant technical workshops to represent the interests and capacity of groups which drive identified threats.	CMS, INGO, Government agencies	High
	1.4.6. Create a 'best practice' policy guide for issues that affect migratory and transboundary species in CAMI countries.	CMS, Government agencies, NGOs	High/medium

1.5. Human needs/community engagement in conservation	1.5.1. Promote sustainable livelihood schemes linked to conservation and local conditions, and to whole communities.	National and international NGOs	High
	1.5.2. Support local development (education, health, energy etc.), linked to conservation, linked to whole community needs.	INGOs; Development agencies	Medium
	1.5.3. Establish (and share best practice of) community based insurance schemes (predation, other conflict, bad weather etc.).	As a platform CMS, for implementation: National and international NGOs	High/medium
	1.5.4. Provide culturally and species appropriate activities for teachers using current examples such as establishing Wildlife Clubs and celebrating species days.	National and international NGOs, Government agencies (e.g. education ministry)	Medium
	1.5.5. Build functional associations within and between communities to form implementing and monitoring bodies under the mandate of the national government, e.g. to link communities along migration routes.	Community leaders, local government agencies, NGOs	Medium
	1.5.6. Promote and support the use of local knowledge and skills, e.g. with community based management plans (engagement with strategy definition), scientific research (participatory approaches), reporting outcomes with communities in a suitable language and format.	Local and national NGOs, Research/ Scientific institutions	High/medium
	1.5.7. Promote non-extractive use especially ecotourism: Research the barriers towards wider adoption of ecotourism within Central Asia and how to build and market a desirable package.	NGOs, Tourism companies	Medium
	1.5.8. Integrate biodiversity conservation issues (for migratory species) into the strategies of international and national development agencies.	CMS, Government agencies	High
	1.5.9. Engage community conservationists with direct involvement in conservation initiatives, such as community monitoring or local wildlife champions.	National/Local Government agencies, NGOs	High/medium

	1.5.10. Engage with and encourage investment from additional NGOs and business, especially local large industries (e.g. oil, gas, mining).	CMS, International NGOs currently involved	Medium
1.6. Scientific knowledge	1.6.1. Conduct gap analysis based on scientific evidence across species to understand the limitations and explain those limitations, identify key questions and construct appropriate hypotheses necessary to permit robust knowledge advancement and provide meaningful and unequivocal information to stakeholders.	Scientific institutions, NGOs	High
	1.6.2. Develop and implement science based national programmes (harmonization across regions).	Scientific institutions	Medium
	1.6.3. Develop appropriate monitoring indicators, with fully elucidated confidence estimators and guidance for interpretation to track change.	Scientific institutions, Government agencies, NGOs	Following completion of gap analysis
	1.6.4. Ensure integration and application of data and findings gathered from scientific research into conservation management planning.	Scientific institutions	High
	1.6.5. Undertake research to increase understanding of landscape permeability as a function of socio economic change, environmental change, protected area configuration.	Scientific institutions	High/ medium
1.7. Transboundary cooperation	1.7.1. Develop an understanding and make best use of political processes, specifically: a) identify the formal processes within each range state concerning adoption of transboundary agreements and feed back to CMS, and b) highlight areas where CMS can have an influence (especially among Parties).	Government agencies, Focal points, CMS	High
	1.7.2. Build on existing agreements, specifically: a) produce an inventory of existing MEAs, governmental/multi-partner agreements and platforms in the CAMI region, building on the CAMI gaps and needs assessment and identify entry-points for enhanced cooperation, b) partner with and integrate migratory species conservation into existing mechanisms such as CITES and development agendas , and c) explore the potential of the Eurasian Customs Region to bolster transboundary conservation (identify opportunities and risks).	INGOs, NGOs, CMS, relevant MEAs and international fora, Government agencies	Medium

	1.7.3. Build on and enhance scientific and working level collaboration, specifically:
	
	   a) promote formal and informal collaboration through scientific working groups,
	
	   b) encourage cooperation at field and working level on survey, research and monitoring as well as for study tours and exchange visits.
		All NGOs with presence across relevant countries, Scientific institutions	High/medium

	1.7.4. Increase awareness, specifically:
	
	   a) promote the benefits of transboundary cooperation among governments and stakeholders, and
	
	   b) provide positive examples (e.g. from 1.7.3) for successful cooperation and share lessons learned.
		CMS, Focal points, Government agencies	Medium

	1.7.5. Strengthen transboundary communication, specifically:
	
	   a) conduct a communication gap analysis,
	
	   b) identify the best ways to communicate in order to promote action, and
	
	   c) identify and increase understanding of the nuances in terms of culture, language and political settings in the different countries in order to communicate correctly.
		CMS, Government agencies, NGOs, Scientific institutions	Medium

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

Landscape and Species	Activity	Responsible	Priority

2.1. Snow leopard & argali (mountain ecosystems)	2.1.1. The following priority transboundary landscapes were identified. Activities for each of them to be aligned with those specified in the GSLEP[1], the associated NSLEPS[2] and the Argali Single-Species Action Plan:
	
	   a) Altay-Sayan (China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia)
	
	   b) Junggar-Alatau (Kazakhstan, China)
	
	   c) Saur-Tarbagatay (China, Kazakhstan)
	
	   d) Inner Tien Shan (China, Kyrgyzstan)
	
	   e) East Tien Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China)
		Government agencies, GSLEP Secretariat, CMS, NGOs, Scientific institutions	High

	f) West Tien shan (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan)		
	g) Hissar-Alay (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)		
	h) Pamir (Afghanistan, China, Tajikistan, Pakistan)		
	i) Karakorum (Pakistan, Afghanistan, China)		
	j) Central Himalaya (Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan)		
	k) Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau (China, and small areas of Bhutan, Nepal, India)		
	l) Gobi (China, Mongolia)		
2.2. Gobi-Desert – Eastern Steppes Ecosystem (wild ass, wild camel, Mongolian gazelle, goitered gazelle, Przewalski's horse)	2.2.1. Address impacts from linear Infrastructure and maintain landscape permeability, specifically: **Fences** a) Map existing fences across the landscape in a spatial (GIS) database, including important meta-data, b) mitigate impact of existing fences through removal or modification to wildlife friendly designs, c) strengthen EIA requirements so that fences that are required or proposed are assessed as to their necessity and if so, ensure that they are wildlife friendly and appropriate to all species affected. (i) Assess the legal framework which exists (Joint ownership of railroads, Border security policies). (ii) Create working group to assess best practice standards or take the lead in defining new ones, and d) explore issues/options related to increasing border fence permeability. **Roads** e) map roads of existing or predicted high volume (>1,000 vehicles/day), f) develop mitigation strategies, i.e. (i) wildlife passage structures that are appropriate to the landscape and species, (i) ensure requirement for mitigating is necessary, (ii) conduct research, (iii) promote public engagement for support of mitigation, (iv) engage in high level discussions with lending agencies/government officials in charge of infrastructure development decisions, and	Government agencies, Mining and infrastructure companies, Private sector, Scientific institutions, NGOs, INGOs	High

g) improve EIA process (see fences). **Railroads** h) map no go areas and suitable areas for alignment to guide planners, i) conduct research to determine whether khulan will cross an unfenced track, j) improve EIA process, and k) incorporate landscape permeability concepts for regional-scale development of roads and railways.		
Land Tenure 2.2.2 Undertake mapping and research to elucidate the effects of variable land tenure, and consequential management, on landscape permeability. 2.2.3. Initiate a multi-agency working group to monitor and discuss solutions to keeping landscapes permeable.	Government agencies, Scientific institutions	High/medium
Political dialogue 2.2.4. Fast track ongoing transboundary discussions.	Government agencies, CMS	High/medium
2.2.5. Strengthen or expand transboundary protected area networks which promote conservation of long-distance migrants in the Gobi-Desert-Eastern Steppe-Ecosystem (wild camel, khulan, Przewalski's horse to start with).	Government agencies, CMS, NGOs	Medium
2.2.6. Develop a single species action plan for the wild ass.	IUCN Equid Specialist Group, CMS, Government agencies, Scientific institutions, NGOs	High
2.2.7. Establish transboundary cooperation and coordination for the conservation of Przewalski's horse among Range States.	Government agencies, Scientific institutions, CMS, NGOs, International Takhi Group (ITG)	High/medium

2.3. South-west region (Cheetah, goitered gazelle, chinkara, wild ass [khulan/onager], Przewalski's horse, Transcaspian urial[3])	**Cheetah (Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Turkmenistan)** 2.3.1. Increase number and/or size of protected areas and connectivity between them in Iran.	Department of Environment Iran (DOE), Iranian Cheetah Society (ICS), NGOs	High
	2.3.2. Enhance effectiveness of protected areas through identification of corridors and a landscape approach (north-east, central-south Iran).	DOE, ICS, NGOs	High/Medium
	2.3.3 Conduct field surveys of potential habitat in areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan neighbouring Iran.	Government agencies, Scientific institutions, NGOs	High/Medium
	2.3.4. Collect information on distribution and threats (e.g. through telemetry).	ICS, Scientific institutions, NGOs, Government agencies	Medium
	2.3.5. Conduct cheetah workshop in Iran and develop a regional programme for conservation and restoration of cheetah.	Government agencies, ICS, NGOs, IUCN Cat Specialist Group	High
	Ustyurt landscape (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; Wild ass, goitered gazelle, Transcaspian urial, saiga) 2.3.6 Monitor khulan movements, including telemetry methods. 2.3.7. Promote creation of protected areas, based on scientific justification. 2.3.8. Increase transboundary cooperation on Ustyurt.	Government agencies, NGOs, Scientific institutions 2.3.8. plus CMS, Saiga MoU	High/Medium
	Khulan/onager (Iran (Islamic Republic of), West Afghanistan, South Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) 2.3.9. Collect information on distribution and threats, including telemetry studies.	Government agencies, NGOs, Scientific institutions	Medium

	2.3.10. Identify corridors and potential additional habitats. 2.3.11 Assess feasibility of reintroduction to Alai Valley, Kyrgyzstan. 2.3.12. See Activity 2.2.6	2.3.11. Kyrgyz state agency, NGOs, Scientific institutions	
	Goitered gazelle (Issyk-Kul, Ustyurt, Kyzylkum, Karakum, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan) 2.3.13. Assess reintroductions where needed and where suitable habitat exists. 2.3.14. Develop sub-regional programme for conservation and restoration of the species. 2.3.15. Assess impact of linear infrastructure on goitered gazelles and develop and implement mitigation measures (as 1.3.). 2.3.16. Review legislation to combat wildlife crime (as 1.1).	Government agencies, NGOs, Scientific institutions, 2.3.14. plus IUCN Antelope Specialist Group	High/medium
	Chinkara (Iran (Islamic Republic of) and neighbouring areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan) 2.3.17. Assess reintroductions where needed and where suitable habitat exists. 2.3.18. Develop sub-regional programme for conservation and restoration of the species.	Government agencies, NGOs, Scientific institutions, IUCN Antelope Specialist Group	Medium
2.4. Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau (China, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan)	2.4.1. Develop a multi-species action plan for Qinghai-Tibetan plateau ungulates (chiru, kiang, Tibetan gazelle and argali, plus Przewalski's gazelle[3], white-lipped deer[3], blue sheep[3]).	Government agencies, Scientific institutions, IUCN, NGOs	High/Medium
	2.4.2. Coordinate transboundary activities at national and provincial levels.	Government agencies, others	Medium
	Species information 2.4.3. Compile and integrate species distribution and movement information across the plateau. 2.4.4. Continue efforts to assess the threat of poaching and illegal wildlife trade- especially in border areas.	Government agencies, Scientific institutions, NGOs	High/Medium

	2.4.5. Identify biologically important hotspots of species of concern at international and provincial border areas.		
	2.4.6. Develop coordinated management plans for species across provinces.		
	Infrastructure threats 2.4.7. Review infrastructure development plans to ensure no adverse impact on species of concern (as 1.3). 2.4.8. Incorporate species considerations (including migration) into national level plans and programmes such as the national key ecological function zone planning. 2.4.9. Highlight the contribution of action plans to the ecological red line strategy currently under consideration.	Government agencies	Medium
	Protected area policy 2.4.10. Strengthen existing protected areas and consider the creation of new protected areas to incorporate identified hotspots.	Government agencies, Scientific institutions	Medium/Low
	2.4.11. Integrate community-based conservation into protected area legislation and practice.	Government agencies, NGOs	High/medium
2.5. Bukhara deer (tugai forests of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)	2.5.1. Approve the reporting format on implementation of the Bukhara deer MoU, and a format for proposals for short-term and long-term revision of the Action Plan. 2.5.2. Develop, evaluate and approve national level plans of targeted activities for the next 5-10 years. 2.5.3. Request governments of the range countries to present a progress report and proposals for Action Plan revision (if necessary) once every 2 years. (Request to submit reports should follow official protocol: from the CMS Secretariat to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the range states with copies to the relevant Ministries/State Committees). 2.5.4. Ensure regular information exchange between range states, including regular meetings of the Signatories of the MoU through the CMS Secretariat or an authorized MoU Coordinator, supported by the CMS Secretariat.	CMS, Government agencies, WWF Central Asia Programme	High

Objective 3. To facilitate knowledge exchange, communication and the promotion of synergies			
Issue	**Activity**	**Responsible**	**Priority**
3.1. Knowledge and Data sharing	3.1.1. Identify and establish mechanisms for data and knowledge storage and sharing within the CAMI.	CMS, IUCN Transboundary Specialist Group newsletter	High
	3.1.2. Determine feasibility of data sharing, considering potential obstacles (e.g. ownership, access, intellectual copyright) and identify ways to overcome them.	NGOs, CMS, Scientific institutions	Low
	3.1.3. Conduct a needs analysis of data requirements for stakeholders within CAMI.	NGOs, CMS	Medium
	3.1.4. Analyse data collected to highlight relevant conservation applications.	CMS, NGOs, Scientific institutions	Low
	3.1.5. Ascertain suitable templates from existing sources such as Saiga Resource Centre; Saiga News; Cat News, etc.	CMS, NGOs	Medium
	3.1.6. Conduct a gap analysis of existing information sources and routes of dissemination.	NGOs, CMS	High
	3.1.7. Establish an "Asian Scientific Initiative for Conservation of Migration" to facilitate science communications: information exchange among institutions, building network facilitated by CMS, capacity building.	CMS, Scientific institutions, NGOs	High/medium
	3.1.8. Collect information including existing species action plans on the CMS website and consider developing Action Plans for species that do not have one.	CMS, NGOs, Government agencies	High
Objective 4. To support implementation, coordination and resourcing of the CAMI			
Issue	**Activity**	**Responsible**	**Priority**
4.1. Coordination mechanism for CAMI	4.1.1. Establish the position of a coordinator for Central Asia within the CMS Secretariat to enable sustainable and long-term Secretariat services for the CAMI.	CMS	High
	4.1.2. Identify and nominate species focal points (and in the process review suitable platforms such as Snow Leopard Network, IUCN Specialist Groups), and publish on CMS website.	CMS, NGOs, INGOs, Scientific institutions	High
	4.1.3. Identify CAMI focal points for each country and publish on CMS website.	CMS, Government agencies	High

	4.1.4. Conduct regular technical, thematic, ecoregion workshops.	CMS, Government agencies, NGOs, GIZ (tbc)	High/Medium
	4.1.5. Organize an intersessional meeting of CAMI members (every 2½ years – in 2017).	CMS, GIZ (tbc)	Medium
	4.1.6. Identify means to connect different CAMI focal points to discuss issues of mutual concern and advance implementation (such as through a formal focal points group).	CMS, GIZ (tbc), NGOs, INGOs	High/Medium
	4.1.7. Establish transboundary working groups to maintain progress and communication between CMS meetings/COPs.	CMS, GIZ (tbc)	High/Medium
	4.1.8. Ensure national consultation of the POW in the relevant ministries after endorsement at the COP11 for national review and approval.	Government agencies, CMS	High
4.2. Funding implementation	4.2.1. Promote co-funding to donor initiatives from governments as well as co-funding from donors to government initiatives.	Government agencies	High/Medium
	4.2.2. Use money from sustainable wildlife use for implementing conservation activities (e.g. trophy hunting and others) in cooperation with CITES.	Government agencies, NGOs, CITES	High/Medium
	4.2.3. Establish a trust fund, including with funding from mining and hydropower companies.	Government agencies, CMS, Private sector companies	Medium
	4.2.4. Include conservation actions for migratory species in the existing/updated/elaborated State programmes on nature protection.	Government agencies	High
	4.2.5. Use national environmental funds that exist under state bodies and include measures on migratory species.	Government agencies	High/Medium
	4.2.6. Conduct an 'Inventory' of donors and funding programmes and identify a "champion" for CAMI.	NGOs, Government agencies, CMS	Medium
	4.2.7. Channel the money from environmental payments to nature conservation activities (currently these payments go to the national budgets and are distributed to other purposes).	Government agencies	Medium

	4.2.8. Use and develop regional or landscape approaches for fundraising – not only single country projects.	Coordination from CMS, Government agencies, NGOs	Medium
	4.2.9. Explore funding options through the Global Environment Fund (GEF) (including Small Grants Programme) projects – joint proposals between several countries should be developed with involvement of GEF implementing agencies (WB, ADB, UNDP) in the processes of project application.	Government agencies, NGOs, CMS	High/Medium
	4.2.10. Strengthen bilateral cooperation between countries as well as with donors in fundraising and joint project development.	Government agencies, Donors, CMS	Medium
	4.2.11. Initiate systematic awareness raising among private companies (Corporate Social Responsibility funds).	NGOs	Low
	4.2.12. Consider organizing charity events to mobilize funding for CAMI.	Government agencies, NGOs, CMS	Low
	4.2.13. Include biodiversity conservation measures into the contracts with mining companies (e.g. to Product Sharing Agreements).	Government agencies, Companies	Medium
4.3 Awareness raising	4.3.1. Raise awareness and understanding about the importance of the Central Asian region for migratory mammals at all levels through all means.	CMS, Government agencies, NGOs	High

Notes: [1]GSLEP = Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program; [2]NSLEP = National Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Programme.
[3]Species occurring within the same landscape but not formally part of CAMI.