

Preparation for the
Workshop “Midterm Review of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)”
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Questions for Government Representatives

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Country: **Turkmenistan**

- 1. Please name the main activities of your Government since 2014, which implement the CAMI Programme of Work (POW) with respect to CAMI species found in your country (please name projects and money spent, if possible).**

According to the following points of the POW (**highlighted in yellow**):

- 1.1.2. Promote review of national legislation and its enforcement on hunting.** *In 2015, a **draft** of the new law on Hunting and Hunting Economy of Turkmenistan was developed.*
- 1.1.3. Promote regular and sound monitoring of species.** *In 2015-2017, monitoring of goitered gazelles and kulan was conducted in the Bathyz Nature Reserve (visually, following tracks and using photo traps provided by the RSPB); goitered gazelles and kulan in the Kaplankyr State Reserve (visual counts); Bukhara deer in Amudarya State Nature Reserve (visually and following tracks).*
- 1.3.4.b) Integrate migratory species conservation into national EIA regulations.** *The degree of impact on migratory species was determined when designing the Ashgabat-Turkmenbashi highway.*
- 2.3.9. Collect information on distribution and threats ... 2.3.10. Identify corridors and potential additional habitats. 2.3.12. Develop a comprehensive species action plan.** *Based on research conducted in 2014-2015 in the framework of the Memorandum between the RSPB and the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan, in 2016, the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Land Resources of Turkmenistan submitted a memorandum and Action Plan aimed at preserving the kulan. 2.5.2. Develop, evaluate and approve national level plans of targeted activities for the next 5-10 years.* *A joint action plan has been developed with law enforcement agencies to combat poaching (2015-2020), which, unfortunately, is very poorly implemented.*

2. Please name your Government's priorities for conservation action on the CAMI species occurring in your country (name 3-5 priorities). Which objectives on CAMI POW do they address?

Collect information on distribution and threats ... 2.3.10. Identify corridors and potential additional habitats. 2.3.12. Develop a comprehensive species action plan. Based on research conducted in 2014-2015 in the framework of the Memorandum between the RSPB and the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan, in 2016, the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Land Resources of Turkmenistan submitted a memorandum and Action Plan aimed at preserving the kulan. 2.5.2. Develop, evaluate and approve national level plans of targeted activities for the next 5-10 years. In 2014, the Action Plan for the protection of Bukhara deer was submitted to the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.

In addition to this, according to the POW, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was developed and presented in 2016, and a project on goitered gazelles and other ungulates through the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan in 2013-2015.

3. Are you aware of any emergencies or urgent threats currently affecting CAMI species in your country or which are very likely to affect the CAMI species in your country in the near future (extreme weather conditions, disease outbreaks, infrastructure plans, ongoing construction, mining, changes in legislation etc.)?

Linear infrastructure (roads, fences, poaching ...)

4. Please identify 3 major challenges that make implementation of CMS and CAMI difficult in your country.

1. *There is a lack of practical actions in place to protect endangered species (the Red Book of Turkmenistan, 2011), which include Bukhara deer, goitered gazelles, kulan, argali and markhor, despite the fact that a management plan for protected areas has been developed and is revised annually.*
2. *The lack of a unified system to combat poaching.*
3. *Protection of ungulates is not a priority, technical equipment and human resources are insufficient.*

5. If possible, provide recommendation(s) for CMS (or other relevant stakeholders) to promote implementation of CAMI and thus conservation of the respective species in your country.

1. *On the basis of current information and individual management plans, create a comprehensive management plan for the conservation of ungulates: Bukhara deer, goitered gazelles, argali, khulan (you can also include markhors, despite the fact that they are not listed in the CMS Appendices)*
2. *Create international transboundary reserves: **Ustyurt** (on the borders between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) and **Bathyz** (at the junction of the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Iran borders)*
3. *Join the CMS convention and relevant protocols under the convention?*

4. *Seek harmonization of national legislation with international conventions, including CITES.*
5. *Recognize the migratory ungulates of Turkmenistan, as well as all Central Asian countries of the Great Silk Road.*

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