

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

SAIGA ANTELOPE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013) the Conference of the Parties adopted nine decisions on *Saiga antelope* (*Saiga tatarica*), as follows:

Directed to the range States of the saiga antelope (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)

14.91 *In order to contribute to the effective implementation of CITES, all range States of Saiga tatarica should fully implement the measures directed to them that are contained in the CoP16) Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015) [MTIWP (2011-2015)], developed in support of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.) and its Saiga Action Plan.*

14.93 *All range States of Saiga spp. should provide information on the measures and activities they undertook to implement the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga CoP16) Antelope (2011-2015) via the online Saiga Resource Centre and its associated project database, managed under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).*

16.95 *All range States of Saiga spp. are encouraged to communicate their priorities for in situ conservation action to the CITES and CMS Secretariats, inter alia, to share such information with potential financial donors.*

Directed to important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives

16.96 *Important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives, as identified by the Secretariat on the basis of CITES trade data, are encouraged to collaborate in managing and controlling trade in saiga antelope and to implement the actions regarding Sustainable Use and Trade (Section 3) contained in the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015), developed in support of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.) and its Saiga Action Plan.*

16.97 *Important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives are encouraged to contribute financially towards the in situ conservation of saiga antelopes in current range States.*

16.98 *Important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives should provide, via the online saiga antelope database managed under the auspices of CMS, information on the*

measures and activities they undertook to implement the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015).

- 16.99 *Important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives are encouraged to reduce consumption in saiga products and derivatives, for example through the use of alternative products with similar medicinal properties, and to implement in this respect the recommendations of the Urumqi workshop on the conservation and sustainable use of the saiga antelope (September 2010).*

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.100 *Based on information submitted by the relevant range States and consumer and trading countries, and following consultation with the CMS Secretariat, the CITES Secretariat shall report to and, as necessary, make recommendations at regular meetings of the Standing Committee regarding the implementation of:*

- a) *Decision 14.91 (Rev. CoP16) regarding the implementation of the MTIWP (2011-2015) by current range States; and*
- b) *Decision 16.98 regarding the implementation of the MTIWP (2011-2015) by major consumer and trading countries.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.101 *The Standing Committee shall consider the reports submitted by the Secretariat, and, on their basis, propose its own recommendations for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Decision 16.100: Reporting by relevant range States, and consumer and trading countries

3. The website of the Saiga Resource Centre, referred to in Decisions 14.93 (Rev. CoP16) and 16.98, was launched in the second half of 2013. The website, available in four languages, was developed by the Saiga Conservation Alliance and the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan, the two technical coordinators of the CMS Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga* spp.) (Saiga MoU), with support and funding from the CMS Secretariat and Switzerland.
4. The Saiga Resource Centre serves as an online communication platform and resource depository that provides comprehensive information on saiga antelopes for experts and the general public. A 'specialist resource' section holds a database of saiga experts and saiga conservation projects. Governments, non-governmental organizations and researchers can register their expertise and relevant projects, and access information on other activities and specialists. One of the main objectives of the website is to share information on progress towards implementing the Saiga MoU, and enable saiga range States, as well as States that consume or trade in saiga products, to share information and experience on activities under the Saiga MoU¹.
5. The saiga range States (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) have not submitted information on the measures and activities they undertook to implement the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015), via the online Saiga Resource Centre and its associated project database, as directed in Decision 14.93 (Rev. CoP16). Formal reporting by the saiga range States under the CMS Saiga MoU is expected to take place before the third meeting of signatories of the Saiga MoU in 2015.
6. The most important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives, based on CITES trade data for the years 2007-2012 (all trade, as reported by both importers and exporters), were: China, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States of America. Trade involving Japan and China was both in derivatives and horns (mostly reported by weight in kg; all trade authorized), and that involving Malaysia and Singapore mostly in horns (in kg; all trade authorized). Practically all records involving New

¹ *The website (in four languages) is available at: (English): <http://www.saigaresourcecentre.com/>; (Russian): <http://ru.saigaresourcecentre.com/>; (Chinese): <http://cn.saigaresourcecentre.com/>; and (Kazakh): http://kz.saigaresourcecentre.com.*

Zealand and the United States concern confiscated or seized derivatives (source code "I") in volumes that seem smaller than the legal trade reported by the other countries.

7. The relevant consumer and trading countries (China, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore) have not provided any information on the measures and activities they undertook to implement the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015), as called for in Decision 16.98.
8. The Secretariat wishes to highlight that information on activities that contribute to the implementation of the Saiga MOU and its Medium-Term International Work Programme (2011-2015) is communicated through *Saiga News*, a bi-annual newsletter of the Saiga Conservation Alliance, which is published in six languages. Two editions of the newsletter have been published since CoP16, issue 16 in Spring 2013 and issue 17 in the Autumn of 2013. The newsletter is available from the Saiga Resource Centre at <http://www.saigaresourcecentre.com/saiga-news/>.
9. In view of the lack of submission of information, the Secretariat is unable to provide the reporting, as required under Decision 16.100.

Consultation and collaboration with CMS

10. The CITES Secretariat and the CMS Secretariat have undertaken a number of joint actions on saiga antelopes since CoP16. These were conducted in the context of the implementation of the CMS-CITES joint work programme 2012-2014, and are summarized in Annex 1 of document SC65 Doc. 16.2.
11. The CITES and CMS Secretariats propose, in the draft CMS-CITES joint work programme for 2015-2020, to continue paying particular attention to saiga antelopes (*Saiga* spp.). The following joint activities are envisaged: ensuring collaboration on the implementation of the Medium-Term International Work Programme under the Saiga MoU and its revisions (including dialogue between consumer and range States); facilitating the implementation of anti-poaching efforts and trade measures; fundraising for meetings of the signatories of the Saiga MoU; and collaboration with regional, national and local saiga antelope conservation initiatives (see document SC65 Doc. 16.2, Annex 2).
12. The CMS Secretariat has stressed that closer engagement between saiga range and consumer States, and the establishment of a financial mechanism for consumer States to fund *in situ* saiga conservation activities, remain important activities. This is envisaged in the CMS-CITES joint work programme 2012-2014 (activity B12). It is also one of the recommendations of the Urumqi workshop on the conservation and sustainable use of the saiga antelope, held in September 2010 [*Formalize the communication lines begun in the workshop (e.g. through the CITES authorities in the range and consumer States) and use these communication lines to: (i) Explore possible bilateral collaboration between the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) industry and range States; (ii) Develop options for the establishment of a fund or other enabling mechanism through which the TCM industry could provide financial, technical and human resources to range States for addressing identified and mutually agreed priorities for in situ restoration of the saiga;...*].

Recommendations

13. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) take note of this document; and
 - b) encourage relevant Parties to provide information on the measures and activities they have undertaken to implement the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015) and the recommendations of the Urumqi workshop on the conservation and sustainable use of the saiga antelope (September 2010) via the online Saiga Resource Centre, in compliance with Decisions 14.93 (Rev. CoP16) and 16.98. The information should be submitted by 31 May 2015, in time for the Secretariat to report at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee in 2015, in compliance with Decision 16.100.