

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Online, 31 May, 1, 4, 21 and 22 June 2021

Species specific matters

ADDENDUM TO SAIGA ANTELOPE (SAIGA SPP.)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Progress since May 2020

2. To date, the Secretariat has not been able to secure external resources to support the implementation of Decision 18.271.
3. With regard to Decision 18.271, paragraph a), the Russian Federation confirmed its interest in hosting the 4th meeting of the signatories of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.)* (MOS4) as an online meeting. The dates of MOS4 are still to be determined. One of the main objectives of MOS4 will be the adoption of a new *Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2021-2025* [WP (2021-2025)], to which the CITES and CMS Secretariats provided inputs in 2019 (see paragraph 4 of document AC31 Doc. 32).
4. Concerning Decision 18.271, paragraphs c) and d), prior to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat intends to undertake an analysis of available data on legal and illegal international trade in *Saiga spp.*, and consult range States and important consumer and trading countries concerning their implementation of Decision 18.270 and their management of stockpiles of saiga specimens.
5. CMS is undertaking work relating to the conservation of and trade in saiga that will contribute to the implementation of Decision 18.271, paragraph c).
 - a) In 2020, the CMS Secretariat compiled the national reports that Saiga range States had submitted in anticipation of MOS4, expected to be held later that year. This overview report is now out of date and will be revised with data from 2021, including information on results of the annual aerial counts of saiga, normally conducted in spring. It should be noted that the national reports of 2020 indicated national population numbers of *Saiga tatarica* as follows: around 8,500 and increasing in the Russian Federation; around 334,400 and increasing in Kazakhstan [this may be an underestimation; COVID-19 prevented the 2020 aerial count from going ahead in Kazakhstan]; and 150-200 and declining in Uzbekistan. No saigas have been observed in Turkmenistan for the last 20 years. *Saiga borealis*, the Mongolian species, was reported to number 5,070 individuals, and to be increasing following a major die-off in 2016/2017.
 - b) The CMS Secretariat informed that, in 2020, it had commissioned a study on illegal (domestic and international) wildlife trade in Central Asia, covering Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The study addresses illegal trade in 22 animal species, including the saiga antelope, but has experienced significant delays and may have to be updated before it is to be considered at MOS4.
 - c) In 2020, the CMS Secretariat organized a study on [The sustainable use of saiga antelopes: perspectives and prospects](#), to be presented at MOS4. A draft of the study is available on the CMS website.

6. The Secretariat will provide further oral updates, as appropriate.

Revised recommendations

7. The Animals Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document AC31 Doc. 32 and this addendum; and
- b) based on the available information and, as appropriate, oral updates, consider making recommendations to the Standing Committee in compliance with Decision 18.272.