

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 13-17 July 2020

Species specific matters

SAIGA ANTELOPE (SAIGA SPP.)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.270 to 18.274 on *Saiga antelope* (*Saiga spp.*), as shown in the Annex to this document.

Implementation of Decision 18.271

3. With regard to paragraphs a) and c) of Decision 18.271, the 4th meeting of the signatories of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope* (*Saiga spp.*) (MOS4), scheduled to be held in the Russian Federation in 2020, has been postponed until 2021. The Secretariat will initiate its review of the conservation of and trade in saiga antelope, in consultation with the CMS Secretariat, following this meeting, noting that the analysis of available data on legal and illegal trade will be conducted after the expiration of the 2020 submission dates for the CITES annual trade and illegal trade reports.
4. Concerning paragraph b), the Secretariat attended the *Joint CMS-CITES Technical Workshop under the MOU Concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope* (*Saiga spp.*) (Vilm, April 2019), which was largely devoted to developing a new *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2021-2025* [MTIWP (2021-2025)] for consideration and adoption at MOS4. The Secretariat has continued to collaborate with the CMS Secretariat to ensure that the draft Work Programme reflects the outcomes of CoP18 regarding saiga antelope.
5. Concerning paragraph d), the consultations with range States and major trading and consumer countries will be undertaken intersessionally, while MOS4 should offer additional opportunities to interact with range States about saiga stockpile management issues. Information generated through these consultations can be collated and made available to the intersessional working group of the Animal Committee if it were to be established. The Secretariat notes that external resources would be required to provide assistance to these Parties in ensuring effective stockpile management and monitoring.

Implementation of Decision 18.272

6. Concerning Decision 18.272, directed to the Animals Committee, relevant information may become available to the Secretariat prior to the next meeting of the Animals Committee in 2021, as explained in the paragraphs above. The Animals Committee may wish to establish an intersessional working group to which the Secretariat could provide such information for review, and that could draft recommendations for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 32nd meeting.

## Recommendations

7. In support of the implementation of Decision 18.272, the Animals Committee is invited to establish an intersessional working group on saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.) to:
  - a) consider any findings and recommendations submitted to it by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.271; and
  - b) draft recommendations directed to the Standing Committee for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 32nd meeting.

Decisions on Saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.)  
adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

**18.270 Directed to range States of saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.) (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives**

- a) The range States of the saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.) and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives, as identified by the Secretariat on the basis of CITES trade data, should fully implement the measures directed to them in the *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2016-2020* [MTIWP (2016-2020)] and for 2021-2025 [MTIWP (2021-2025)], 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*; and
- b) Consistent with the measures directed to Saiga range States in the *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2016-2020* [MTIWP (2016-2020)], the range States of the saiga antelope are encouraged to establish internal market controls for saiga parts, including registration of stockpiles, labelling of parts and products, and registration of manufacturers and traders, and report such information to the CITES Secretariat.

**18.271 Directed to the Secretariat**

Subject to the availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) assist the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in organizing the fourth meeting of the signatories of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.)*, expected to be held in the Russian Federation in 2020;
- b) in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, provide inputs as needed in developing a *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2021-2025* [MTIWP (2021-2025)], 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*;
- c) review, in consultation with the CMS Secretariat, the conservation of and trade in saiga antelope, *Saiga* spp., based on available data on legal and illegal trade, materials and outcomes of the fourth meeting of saiga MoU signatories, and stakeholder consultations, and report any consequent findings and recommendations to the Animals Committee, and to the Standing Committee in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)* and the joint CMS-CITES work programme;
- d) consult saiga range States and major trading and consumer States concerning their management of stockpiles of saiga specimens; review processes and practices; and provide assistance in ensuring effective stockpile management and monitoring, including the development of inventories and strengthening stockpile security; and
- e) report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee on the implementation of this Decision, as appropriate.

**18.272 Directed to the Animals Committee**

The Animals Committee shall, as appropriate, consider any findings and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.271, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.

**18.273 Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall, as appropriate, consider any findings and recommendations submitted by the Animals Committee and the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.271 and 18.272, and make recommendations as necessary.

**18.274 Directed to saiga antelope range States, Parties, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders**

Saiga antelope range States, Parties, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders are encouraged to collaborate in the conservation and restoration of the saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.), and to support the implementation of MTIWP (2016-2020) and MTIWP (2021-2025).