

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

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Santiago (Chile), 3-15 November 2002

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) on trade in specimens
of Appendix-II species taken from the wild

SAIGA TATARICA: SUMMARY OF THE CITES-SPONSORED WORKSHOP IN KALMYKIA IN MAY 2002
AND PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

1. This document is circulated at the request of Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. It is intended to highlight the plight of the saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*), and recent efforts at developing a coordinated, international effort to conserve the species.
2. Saiga populations have declined precipitously in recent years due to poaching and illegal trade, and habitat degradation. To address this problem, an International Workshop on Saiga Conservation was convened in May 2002 in the city of Elista in the Russian Federation. The workshop was convened at the initiative of and was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kalmykia of the Russian Federation. The Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia assisted in bringing the Workshop to fruition.
3. The Workshop was held under the auspices of both CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species, and was sponsored financially by a number of organizations, including Conservation Force, the Safari Club of Houston, the Large Herbivore Initiative of WWF, IUCN, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
4. The Workshop achieved unprecedented cooperation among the five range countries that participated, those being the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Mongolia. A draft Action Plan concerning conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) was prepared, as was a draft Memorandum of Understanding among four of the range countries. We are pleased to share the successful results of this Workshop with the CITES community.
5. The attached documents are products of the Workshop.
 - Annex 1, Resolution of the International Workshop on saiga Conservation, provides a summary of the Workshop.
 - Annex 2, Draft Action Plan concerning Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*), outlines the action items deemed necessary to conserve this species throughout its range
 - Annex 3, Draft Memorandum of Understanding, is an agreement among the range countries to implement the Action Plan under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species. This MoU has not yet been signed by the range countries.