

Uzbekistan

We have also carried out social and ecological surveys in Uzbekistan to understand the problems faced by saigas. We have engaged with government and local people and have built a consensus and a plan for action. Now we just need the funding to put our plans into action!



Interview with local man in Uzbekistan.
Photo by A. Espinov

International

We publish a twice-yearly bulletin about saiga conservation in six languages, so that it is accessible to anyone who is interested in saigas. The bulletin is read in remote villages in Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Russia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, by horn consumers in China and by international policy-makers, as well as conservationists and the general public anywhere. For a species that is so widely spread, this newsletter is a valuable way to make sure we all stay connected and can share our experiences and ideas.



Saiga baby. Photo by N. Bunnefeld



Saiga herd, Russia. Photo by J-F Lagrot

Support us!

We are currently raising money for these projects. Any donation will help, no matter how small!

Support setting up of volunteer community wardens in Uzbekistan

Local people are keen to play a part in conserving their heritage by acting as volunteer wardens. We need funding to train them and for petrol so that they can patrol effectively.

Help us keep publishing Saiga News

This newsletter keeps us all in touch and keeps saigas at the forefront of everyone's minds

Support the Saiga Breeding Centre in Russia

This pioneering centre not only represents a lifeboat for saigas, but also acts as a centre for ecological education and is the base for our rotating cow project.

Find out more:

<http://www.iccs.org.uk/SaigaAlliance.htm>

E-mail us: saigaconservationalliance@yahoo.co.uk

Donate: Online at our website, or via the Wildlife Conservation Network (<http://www.wildnet.org/donate.htm>), or by sending a cheque made out to Saiga Conservation Alliance to: E.J. Milner-Gulland, Silwood Park Campus, Buckhurst Road, Ascot, SL5 7PY, UK.

If you are particularly interested in one specific project, let us know and we will target your money to that project. All donations will be acknowledged in our project publicity, and you will receive a free subscription to Saiga News.

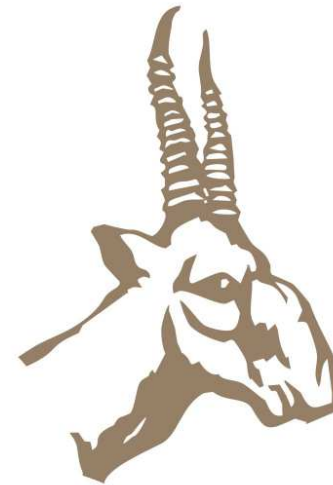
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**Saiga Conservation
Alliance**



**DEDICATED TO SAVING
THE SAIGA ANTELOPE**

About the saiga

The saiga antelope is a unique inhabitant of the vast plains of Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It is a relict of the ice age fauna that included mammoths and sabre tooth cats, and is evolutionarily distinct from other antelopes. It is also a symbol of the steppe for the nomadic people it shares its habitat with, and has been a source of food and inspiration for centuries.



*Petroglyphs of saigas, Kazakhstan.
Photo by A. Kuhl*



*Saiga at a Buddhist temple in Russia.
Photo by E.J. Milner-Gulland*

In the last 10 years the saiga antelope's numbers have dropped by more than 90%, the fastest and most spectacular decline ever recorded for a mammal species. Vast herds have been decimated by poachers in search of horns for the Chinese medicine market and meat for sale and to feed their families. This decline was sparked by the collapse of the Soviet Union, which led to great deprivation in rural areas, the opening of borders to China and massive loss of funding for saiga protection. Now the saiga is listed as "Critically Endangered" in the World Conservation Union's Red List of Threatened Species. This is the highest level of extinction risk that they recognise.



*Horns for sale in a Chinese medicine store.
Photo by M. Rosshach*



*Saiga skulls with cut off horns, Uzbekistan
Photo by A. Espinov*

The world has woken up to the plight of the saiga. There is new hope for people living in poverty in rural areas and for saigas. The challenge is to link people's and the saiga's futures, to ensure that saigas regain their place as a foundation of the heritage and economy of their homeland.



*School children with SCA worker,
Kazakhstan. Photo by A. Kuhl*

About the Saiga Conservation Alliance

We are an informal network of researchers and conservationists, who have worked together over 15 years to study and conserve the saiga. We are committed to restoring the saiga to its position as the lynchpin of the steppes, reflecting the species' cultural and economic value to local people and its fundamental role in the steppe ecosystem. We work collaboratively, and freely share our expertise and love for saigas. We disseminate our work widely, to the public throughout the world, governments and the conservation community.



*The Saiga Conservation Alliance meets in Moscow.
Photo by A. Espinov*

Conserving Saigas Worldwide

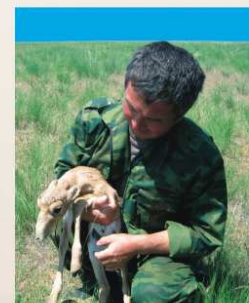
The Saiga Conservation Alliance currently works in the three countries where >95% of saigas can be found - Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as well as campaigning for saigas internationally.

Russia

In Russia, our team includes the Centre for Wild Animals of Kalmykia, the only successful captive breeding centre for saigas in the world. We are coordinating educational programmes for children, carrying out anti-poaching work and monitoring saiga breeding success. We are also engaging with local people through a "rotating cow" scheme, whereby the poorest households in villages which agree to conserve saigas receive a cow to feed their family, passing on their firstborn calves to new families.



*Krasilka the cow, part of our alternative livelihoods programme.
Photo by E.J. Milner-Gulland*



*Ranger with saiga calf.
Photo by E.J. Milner-Gulland*

Kazakhstan

In Kazakhstan we have carried out social surveys to understand who is poaching and why, and we monitor saiga populations every year to determine whether conservation actions are working. Our results are used by governments and other organisations to help plan their interventions.



Calf observation in Kazakhstan. Photo by J-F Lagrot