



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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3rd MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES (MOS3) OF THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE
BUKHARA DEER (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*)
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10-11 September 2024

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*) (Bukhara Deer MOU) was signed by Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan during a special event of a meeting of the Inter-State Sustainable Development Commission (ISDC) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 16 May 2002. The Republic of Uzbekistan signed the MOU on 18 September 2002 through its Ambassador in Germany. The International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and WWF Russia have signed the MOU as cooperating organizations. The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) acts as the Secretariat for the MOU pursuant to paragraph 5 of the MOU (Basic Principles).
2. The First Meeting of Signatories to the MOU (MOS1) took place in Bergen, Norway in November 2011. Following the decision at MOS1 to recognize Afghanistan as an additional Range State of Bukhara Deer, the Secretariat invited Afghanistan to consider signing the MOU.
3. MOS2 was scheduled to take place on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, 19-23 October 2020. However, due to the travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic it was replaced by a virtual Technical Workshop (TW), 19-22 October 2020, with the view to prepare key documents. Subsequently, the Work Programme for Bukhara Deer 2021-2026 was adopted by the Signatories via correspondence. MOS2 was jointly organized by the Secretariat and the International Academy for Nature Conservation of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany with funding from the German Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).
4. Document *UNEP/CMS/BKD/MOS3/Doc.3. Overview Report* for this meeting outlines the conservation status of the species and progress achieved towards the implementation of the Work Programme for 2021-2026. MOS3 is organized by the Secretariat and hosted by the Forestry and Wildlife Committee (FWC) of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan with financial support from the Central Asian Mammals and Climate Adaptation (CAMCA) project funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Government of Germany.
5. Successes have been achieved in halting population declines across the species' range and absolute numbers of the deer have increased from 350 animals at the time the MOU was signed to about 3,500 in 2020 and 4,320-4,600 in 2023.

Bukhara Deer and the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)

6. The Bukhara Deer is a species covered by the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), which was officially launched in 2014 by the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11) to CMS in Quito, Ecuador in November 2014. In September 2019, the Second CAMI Range State Meeting took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The meeting developed a comprehensive Programme of Work (POW) 2021-2026 for 15 CMS-listed mammals covered by the Initiative and reviewed Resolution 11.24, which was subsequently adopted at COP13 in Gandhinagar, India in February 2020 along with the POW in its annex.
7. CAMI was designed to provide a common strategic framework for action at the international level to conserve migratory mammals and their habitat in the wider Central Asian region. It aims at bringing together and harmonizing implementation of existing CMS instruments and mandates as well as initiatives undertaken by other stakeholders. All Signatories of the Bukhara Deer MOU are also Range States of CAMI.
8. The following activities were included for Bukhara Deer in the CAMI Programme of Work 2021-2026, under point 12:
 - 12.1 Arrange a Meeting of Signatories of the CMS Memorandum of Understanding conserving the Restoration and Conservation of the Bukhara Deer, to
 - discuss and agree on reporting format and process;
 - provide status and progress reports on Bukhara deer from Signatory countries;
 - update the International Action Plan under the MOU;
 - develop and agree on a system and timeframe of regular information exchange under the MOU and on the revised Action Plan implementation between Signatories and CMS.
 - 12.2 Support Range States to secure funding for the implementation of the most relevant and urgent measures, outlined in the International Action Plan under the MOU as well as national plans.
9. CMS Decision 14.167 (d) adopted at COP14 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in February 2024, commissioned the revision of the CAMI POW with the aim of streamlining its actions to focus on cross-cutting activities that benefit multiple species and to reflect updated CMS mandates relevant to the region. Therefore, a draft of the new Work Programme for 2025-2032 follows a different approach than the previous Work Programme for 2021-2026. The Secretariat suggests that threats impacting and activities addressing not only Bukhara Deer, but also other species covered by CAMI will be included in the next CAMI POW, whereas the Bukhara Deer Work Programme for 2025-2032 shall focus on activities of special relevance for one or more populations of the species.
10. This will also fulfil the recommendations arising from the Bukhara Deer TW regarding the full integration of the Bukhara Deer MOU into the cooperative framework provided by CAMI, which means that:
 - a) meetings to assess the conservation status of the Bukhara Deer and develop conservation actions for the species will be conducted within the framework of CAMI;
 - b) meetings and reporting requirements as well as reviews of implementation of the MOU will be fully aligned with CAMI Range State meeting cycles;
 - c) Signatory States of the MOU are requested to enhance their cooperation on Bukhara Deer using the CAMI framework and processes.

11. In line with Resolution 14.16 on Ecological Connectivity and a recommendation arising from the Midterm Review Meeting of CAMI on Vilm Island, Germany, 16-19 April 2018, the CMS Secretariat commissioned the study 'Mapping Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative' (updated 18 June 2023) (*UNEP/CMS/BKD/MOS3/Inf. 1*). The report contains key transboundary conservations areas for the Bukhara Deer and relevant recommendations for strengthening transboundary cooperation, which were integrated to the draft Work Programme for 2025-2032.
12. Furthermore, in order to implement mandates of the CAMI POW 2021-2026 in relation to community engagement and sustainable use, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) commissioned a study on 'Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management of CAMI Species' for the CMS Secretariat (*UNEP/CMS/BKD/MOS3/Inf.2*). Bukhara Deer is one of the focal species of this report and its recommendations were integrated in the draft Work Programme for 2025-2032.

National Reports and Overview Report

13. Paragraph 5 of the MOU invites Signatory States to provide the Secretariat with annual national reports and asks the Secretariat to distribute these reports received and compile an Overview Report.
14. The current format of the National Reports might not provide straightforward assessment of the achievement of the Work Programme's results and implementation of planned measures. Therefore, the Secretariat requests to be provided a mandate to elaborate a new reporting format that will be consistent with the structure and content of the Work Programme (to be discussed under the Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda). As mentioned under paragraph 10. above, the Signatories will be requested to submit their national reports in line with the CAMI reporting cycle.
15. The Signatory States have been asked to provide national reports for this meeting using the National Report format endorsed at the Bukhara Deer TW. As 10 August 2024, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have submitted their national reports. The reports have been made available within the documentation for the Meeting as documents *UNEP/CMS/BKD/MOS3/Inf.3* and *UNEP/CMS/BKD/MOS3/Inf.4* respectively.

List of National Contact Points

16. As proposed at the Bukhara Deer TW, the Bukhara Deer contact points in the MOU Signatory States are, in accordance with the practice under CAMI, the CMS National Focal Points in those countries and Olga Pereladova as the CAMI Species Focal Point for Bukhara Deer coordinates the technical input with experts in the Range States.

Action requested

17. The Signatories are requested to:
 - a) take note of this report;
 - b) decide on the future review and implementation of the MOU and its relationship with CAMI as proposed by the Secretariat.