



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety



## Workshop on Minimizing Conflicts between Migrating Wildlife and Mining in Central Asia

International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm /Germany, 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013

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### Declaration of Intent

Representatives of the Governments of Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Germany, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), several scientific institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as a panel of experts came together to discuss

1. mining and infrastructure development in Central Asia and its impact on migratory and nomadic ungulates, with a special focus on Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan;
2. existing relevant national and international legislation and standards, implementation and enforcement options and requirements;
3. international experience and best practice examples, as well as existing mitigation, offset and compensation measures and potential solutions;
4. key factors hindering and enabling effective implementation of the solutions and mitigation measures;
5. next steps and actions to be initiated within one year, until the next workshop in 2014.

### The participants of the meeting

*Concerned* that Central Asia is a region of global importance for many endangered migratory ungulates, which rely on interconnected steppe and desert ecosystems that enable essential long-distance movements and ensure their long-term survival;

*Recognize* the rapid development of exploration activities, extractive industries and infrastructure in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. Without careful planning and mitigation these developments will have a serious negative impact on ecosystem function by restricting the movements of wild ungulates resulting in the loss of “migratory landscapes”;

*Note* that the species concerned are listed on the Appendices of the CMS and that CMS Parties adopted several provisions and Resolutions relating to the need for maintaining ecological networks and removing any obstacles that might hinder the migrations of species, as well as recognizing that Central Asia is a priority region for CMS;

*Aware* that long-distance movements of nomadic species are unpredictable (relative to migratory species, as traditionally defined);

*Further aware* that the conservation of migratory species and their habitats provide essential ecosystem services, such as maintaining optimal foraging across a highly variable habitat resulting in increased carbon storage capacity of the grasslands, as well as cultural heritage values and economic benefits including sustainable tourism;

*Recall* that the Government of Germany signed bilateral partnerships with the Governments of Mongolia and Kazakhstan regarding the exploitation of raw materials and that these partnerships include sustainability provisions for social and ecological safeguards;

*Have considered* existing recommendations, measures and procedures needed to effectively mitigate the negative impacts from infrastructure, exploration activities and extractive industries;

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*Declare their intent* to implement the following Action Plan for the mitigation of the impacts of infrastructure, exploration activities and extractive industries in Central Asia and Mongolia, and to share experiences on the implementation of those activities at the second meeting in 2014.

Solution/Action	Lead	Activity	Time
1. Remove fences along railways	Ministry for the Environment and Green Development Mongolia (MEGD) in coll. with group members	1.1 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of joint ministerial working group to agree on fence removal and modifications	Early July
	MEGD	1.2 Fence subgroup to plan the fence removal and related activities incl. soft slopes	July 2013
	MEGD	1.3 Remove the fence in 2 priority sites	September 2013
	MEGD	1.4 Set up monitoring of effectiveness of fence removal and present results to decision-makers	Parallel to fence removal activities; Report to be presented in July 2014
	MEGD	1.5 Consider study visit of Transport Ministry and Railway Company to Kazakhstan (KZ)	After September 2013
			1.6 consider to change legislation / standards with regard to new railroads based on pilot results

Solution/Action	Lead	Activity	Time
2. Where fences have to remain, make them wildlife friendly (border fences in KZ, railroad fence in Mongolia (MG))	MEGD /Ministry of Environment (ME) KZ In coll. with security / military; neighboring countries	2.1 MG: To be planned by the sub-group (identify priorities, funding options, technical options, taking poaching risks into consideration, monitoring etc.)	Identify priorities by July 2014
		2.2 MG: Start with fence modification on priority sites	By 2015
	Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity Kazakhstan (ACBK), ME	2.3 KZ: Develop and submit recommendations to the Ministry of Env. for submission to the border guard, and monitor effectiveness	By summer 2013
	Workshop organizers	2.4 Disseminate lessons learned on fence removal and fence modification to other Central Asian countries	By 2014 (next workshop)
	CMS	2.5 Share Saiga recommendations with China and other Central Asian countries	By August 2013
3. Improve green economic leverage for funding wildlife- friendly infrastructure	MEGD; Wildlife Conservation Society Mongolia (WCS)	3.1 Study international experiences of green economic leverage for funding wildlife-friendly infrastructure	By end of 2013
		3.2 Organize workshop on result of above study	2014
		3.3 Frame draft legislation for suitable funding strategies for wildlife-friendly infrastructure	2014
4. Road curfews	WCS, MEGD	4.1 Approach OT and ER again to discuss curfews as a mitigation option and ask them to test it and monitor wildlife movements	Start 2013, monitor longer
		4.2 Monitor existing curfews to understand effectiveness	Start 2013
		4.3 Consider upscaling if it works (identifying further roads, species)	

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5. Over- and underpasses (green bridges)	WCS	5.1 Develop project proposal on under- and overpasses, and monitor effectiveness, seeking permission from Mongolian authorities	
	MEGD, WCS	5.2 Convene meeting with scientists to determine how existing herder under- and overpasses of the railroad might suit the needs of some species; monitoring existing underpasses	2013
	Ministry of Road and Transportation	5.3 Build crossing aids for new railroads (based on KZ experience) and also under- and overpasses for busy roads despite limited knowledge	
6. Anti-poaching actions	MEGD, ME KZ, ME Kyrgyzstan (KG)	6.1 Develop and implement public awareness programme (ME KZ)	2013
	MEGD	6.2 Strengthen technical capacity of border staff /customs (dogs, etc.) ; explore funding for that; explore possibility for Mongolian custom officer /rangers to take part in KZ trainings	2014
	WCS (and Oyu Tolgoi OT)	6.3 Continue and expand anti-poaching work in South Gobi (programme to be coordinated with MEGD and provincial govt)	Ongoing, main phase 2013/2014
	MEGD	6.4 Continue collaborative approach to anti-poaching	ongoing
	MEGD	6.5 Discuss with mining companies what they could do to reduce poaching of their staff in the frame of the MoU	2013
	State Agency on Environmental Protection with support from NABU / Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	6.6 Upscale community engagement work in KG;	To be started soon
	ME KZ in coordination with NGO	6.7 Strengthen collaboration with other institutions and stakeholders (i.a. hunting concessions) in charge	To be started soon

Solution/Action	Lead	Activity	Time
7. Early stage planning (including EIA), to identify and implement best solutions before construction (routes, technical solutions etc).	MEGD to approach donors; Flora & Fauna International (FFI) could assist in capacity building activities in KZ	7.1 Capacity building for consultancies conducting EIA	To be started 2013
		7.2 Capacity building for government staff	
	GIZ as commissioned by MEGD	7.3 Develop guidance on how to calculate damage caused by the mining industry	July 2014
8. Strategic environmental assessment of infrastructure planning	MEGD	8.1 Develop methodology for SEA	By autumn 2013
9. Ensure that laws & legislation contains environmental standards and safeguards (for infrastructure planning)	ME in KZ with involvement of ACBK; ME in KG MEGD	9.1 Review and if necessary revise EIA law in KZ and develop law in KG;	To be started when funding is available
		9.2 Review standards (railway, underpasses) in MG	To be started in 2014
10. National mitigation and offset strategy	MEGD	10.1 Translate (seek funding for this, maybe from GIZ or WB) and review existing relevant reports	2013
	MEGD	10.2 Prioritize and discuss with relevant stakeholders	
	WCS	10.3 Use Business and Biodiversity Offset Programme (BBOP) webinars for getting more info from case studies on how to set up an offset /mitigation strategy addressing legal, institutional, financial and technical aspects	
	WCS	10.4 Explore how BBOP could assist Mongolia	2013
	BMU	10.5 Address German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on how Germany could assist MG in this	Summer 2013
	MEGD/Mong. Govt	10.6 Put this issue on the agenda for the next bilateral Mongolian German governmental consultations in autumn this year	Autumn 2013

Solution/Action	Lead	Activity	Time
11. Landscape level land-use planning	The Nature Conservancy Mongolia (TNC) (in coll. with MEGD)	11.1 TNC “Development by Design” approach to cover rest of the country; all information will be made available	ongoing
	MEGD	11.2 Integrate information /results in revised NBSAP	ongoing
	ACBK	11.3 Continue and expand the process in KZ and share lessons learned	ongoing
12. Better management, accessibility, transparency of environmental data (laws, plans, strategies)	WCS	12.1 Biodiversity data base from OT project (South Gobi) accessible; Links to laws etc. to be provided as well; English translation of legislation	2013
	TNC	12.2 Data from Development by Design Project to be made public	2014
	World Wide Fund for Nature WWF	12.3 GIS information in Web on planned infrastructure, biodiversity	In the past;; but no update now
	MEGD	12.4 Combine different resources and data bases	2014
	ACBK	12.5 Ensure inflow of data in Biodiversity Monitoring Data Base and maintain it	ongoing
13. Systematic monitoring of wildlife and habitat	MEGD in coll. with science	13.1 Develop <b>institutional structure</b> for central method design, collection and analysis of monitoring data	Mid-term
		13.2 Explore <b>funding</b> for sustained monitoring and data processing and analysis	
		13.3 Develop <b>concepts and methodology</b> on how to do the monitoring for the entire country (not just PAs)	
		13.4 Use experience from other countries	
	ME in KG	13.5 Analyse monitoring methods from different projects and consider upscaling	
	ACBK, FFI, Forestry and Hunting Committee KZ	13.6 Develop Monitoring protocols for Ustyurt Saiga range	By 2014

Solution/Action	Lead	Activity	Time
14. Improved cooperation, communication and coordination (between government and all stakeholders)	MEGD	14.1. Regular meetings of the joint ministerial working group, and the sub groups (standards & regulations, research, planning & strategy, fences, mining & cumulative impacts of infrastructure, roads & railway construction, funding) <i>inter alia</i> to develop integrated work plan of the ministry with input from stakeholders	Starting in July 2013 (further meetings to be decided by the group)
	MEGD	14.2. Regular meetings of government, scientist NGOs and private sector (to be initiated and convened by the MEGD)	2013/2014
	MEGD	14.3 Systematically collect information on ongoing and planned research projects and facilitate a research cooperation platform (to be discussed in the research sub-group)	To be decided by the first meeting of the working group
15. Programme and action plan under the MOU between government & companies (MN and KG)	MEGD	15.1. Develop a joint action plan for 1 year with indicators how to measure those activities	End of 2013
		15.2. Share that action plan with other countries to promote similar agreements	
16. Lobby for alternative railway route planning (and construction) in Kazakhstan	German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nature Conservation (BMU)	16.1. BMU to raise the topic in its governmental consultations with Kazakhstan	June/July 2013
	ACBK/FFI	16.2. Work with UNDP and the US Embassy to lobby for the alternative route.	ongoing
	CMS	16.3. Letter to the Kazakh government	July 2013
17. Promotion: pride of nomadic heritage ("land without fences") campaign	WCS	17.1. Highlight the motto (land without fences) in the documentary about the study tour to the US	Summer 2013
	MEGD	17.2. work with tourism association to promote the motto	Start 2013
	CMS	17.3. Fundraise for a short trailer	Start 2013
18. Ratify CMS	State Agency of Environmental Protection, Forestry Services (Kyrgyzstan)	18.1. Promote and support ratification procedure	End of 2013