



Saiga Conservation Alliance Strategic Plan, 2013-2016

Mission statement

The Saiga Conservation Alliance is a collaborative network of scientists and conservationists who work within saiga range states and internationally. Committed to restoring saiga antelope populations to levels which enable it to play its full role in the ecological and human landscape, we promote and support the species' intrinsic, cultural and economic value by carrying out research, conservation actions and capacity building.

Background

The SCA's steering committee have reviewed the results of the planning meeting attended by SCA members and interested parties in July 2013 and have voted on each of the outcomes in order to prioritise actions.

There are six overarching **Strategic Issues** which the SCA has noted as critical and to be tackled concurrently:

- 1) The trade in saiga horn
- 2) High levels of poaching in all range countries
- 3) Habitat degradation and infrastructure development
- 4) Insufficient collaboration between SCA and relevant governments
- 5) Saiga populations low and range constrained
- 6) SCA's lack of institutional stability

Under each **Strategic Issue** we have identified between 1-4 **Strategic Objectives** which will each be met through a number of **Strategic Actions**. These Strategic Actions have been classified according to the CMS saiga MOU's classifications of:

1. Urgent (crucial for preventing population extirpation).
2. Important (necessary for stabilisation of numbers).
3. Useful (will contribute to population restoration).

Each has also been classified by a timeframe:

- A. Immediate implementation- 2013 / 2014.
- B. mid-term implementation- 2014 / 2016.



The actions identified as A1 (urgent and immediate) are:

- 1.2.1 Conduct saiga product survey in major trading countries and market and consumer surveys
- 1.4.1 Strengthen links between consumer and range states at all levels
- 2.1.1 Improve capacity of anti-poaching brigades by organizing and facilitating training and physical resources, experience sharing
- 2.1.2 Reduce social acceptability of poaching through awareness campaigns, trainings, social surveys, community events among local people, alternative livelihoods, participatory monitoring
- 2.1.4 Grant annual anti-poaching award for trade reduction in anti-poaching and law enforcement agencies in all countries (for customs traders, transport police, rangers) e.g. country-specific competitions, shortlist for overall winner? Co-operate with government to manage award. Share best practice
- 3.1.1 Monitor saiga status across different parts of range, including developed and natural areas
- 3.1.2 Research landscape-level drivers of impact of industrial development on saiga numbers and distribution
- 4.1.1 Identify key collaborators (from governments, NGOs, universities) in each country
- 5.2.1 Support best practice captive breeding centres in their conservation activities e.g. develop and support funding proposals and strategic plans
- 6.1.1 Develop a cross-network active fundraising strategy providing sufficient financial resources for key SCA activities
- 6.1.2 An increased commitment to building the SCA across the whole network

These actions have been agreed by the Steering Committee to be those which should be the highest priority for the SCA, and should be the focus of our work in 2013/14.

The actions identified as B1 (urgent and medium-term)¹ are:

- 1.3.1 Invite consumer countries (other than China, which is already a member) to SCA steering committee
- 1.4.2 Support and extend mechanism for exchange of expertise through SRC
- 2.1.5 Improve understanding of drivers and prevalence of poaching by conducting community surveys, analyzing poaching data, information sharing, campaigning, mass media, participatory monitoring
- 2.1.6 Joint awareness campaign on legislation to provide better understanding of laws to different audiences e.g. law enforcement agencies and general public/consumers. Use SRC where possible
- 4.1.3 Explore membership of SCA for government and individual officials
- 5.2.2 Engage more actively with international zoo community to support full range of SCA activities e.g. EAZA, AZA, WAZA, e.g. supporting CWA public engagement and saigas in zoos)
- 6.1.3 Greater sharing and discussion for improved efficiency across the SCA network

These actions should be the focus for funding proposals or planning by SCA SC, in order that they can start to be implemented from 2014.

Other actions identified within the Strategic Plan are also important, and should be pursued whenever the opportunity arises, funding is available, or particular filials or individuals have a specific interest in fulfilling them.

¹ Follow-up actions to A1 activities are not listed here.



Strategic plan for the Saiga Conservation Alliance, 2013-2016

Strategic issue	Strategic objective	Strategic actions	Urgency¹	Importance	Responsibility	Funding required
A significant issue the organisation can help address	What is change you want to see in this issue in three years' time?	How will you achieve this change?	1 Urgent, 2 Important, 3 Useful	A Immediate, B mid-term	Who within the SCA is responsible for taking this action forward?	How is the SCA going to fund this action?
1. Trade in saiga products	1.1. Improve support for CITES and TRAFFIC	1.1.1 Support parties to CITES and CMS and secretariats to fulfill MoU obligations	2	A	SCA filials in country, SCA intl.	Specific funding not required
		1.1.2 Develop CITES section on the SRC	2	A	SCA intl.	Proposal with CITES
		1.1.3 Collect information on seizures and confiscation from SCA member states and organizations involved (publically available, open source and official sources only)	2	A	SCA filials in country, SCA intl.	Funding required. Proposal to be developed
		1.1.4 Information followed with analysis and recommendations	2	A	SCA filials in country, SCA intl	Funding required (link to 1.1.3)
	1.2. Better understanding of illegal trade and consumption in major consumer countries	1.2.1 Conduct saiga product survey in major trading countries and market and consumer surveys	1	A	SCA-China to lead	Funding required, proposal to be developed
		1.2.2 Follow up survey results with actions, including public awareness events, campaigns in consumer countries, and dissemination of results, including governments (Action to follow after completion of 1.2.1)	1	B	SCA-filials in range state countries	Funding required, proposal to be developed



	1.3. Strategic Objective: Improve involvement in SCA of people working in consumer countries other than China (e.g. Singapore, Vietnam)	1.3.1 Invite consumer countries (other than China, which is already a member) to SCA steering committee	1	B	SCA intl.	No additional funding required
		1.3.2 Work with CITES and CMS to promote SCA within consumer countries	2	B	SCA intl.	No additional funding required
		1.3.2 Organize consumer country joint meeting to encourage them to join SCA activities	2	A	SCA China to lead & SCA int.	Funding required. Proposal to be developed
	1.4. Increase capacity and co-operation among law enforcement agencies	1.4.1 Strengthen links between consumer and range states at all levels	1	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Need clear proposal for action before searching for funds
		1.4.2 Support and extend mechanism for exchange of expertise through SRC	1	B	SCA int.	SRC is funded to some extent for 2014, continue to solicit funding
		1.4.3 Conduct training needs assessment then organize joint training and develop training materials both within and between range states	2	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Need clear proposal for action before searching for funds
		1.4.4 Lessons learnt will be used to encourage other countries (Action to follow after completion of 1.4.3)	2	B		Funding as for 1.4.3
2. High levels of poaching in all range countries	2.1. Reduce number of poachers	2.1.1 Improve capacity of anti-poaching brigades by organizing and facilitating training and physical resources, experience sharing	1	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Funding required. Proposal needs developing
		2.1.2 Reduce social acceptability of poaching through awareness campaigns, trainings, social surveys, community events among local people, alternative livelihoods, participatory monitoring	1	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Some activities ongoing in Uz, Ru, Kz; steppe wildlife clubs, saiga days, embroidery (Uz), participatory monitoring (Uz, Kz)

		2.1.2 Improve co-operation of law enforcement agencies within and between the countries through organizing exchange visits, training, information and data sharing/workshops etc.	2	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Funding required. Combine proposal with 2.2.1. Project in Uz in 2014-5 (Whitley award)
		2.1.4 Grant annual anti-poaching award for trade reduction in anti-poaching and law enforcement agencies in all countries (for customs traders, transport police, rangers) e.g. country-specific competitions, shortlist for overall winner? Co-operate with government to manage award. Share best practice	1	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Launched in 2014
		2.1.5 Improve understanding of drivers and prevalence of poaching by conducting community surveys, analyzing poaching data, information sharing, campaigning, mass media, participatory monitoring	1	B	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Some work understanding drivers and prevalence of poaching funded through MSc research projects. For other aspects funding required. Proposal needs developing.
		2.1.6 Joint awareness campaign on legislation to provide better understanding of laws to different audiences e.g. law enforcement agencies and general public/consumers. Use SRC where possible	1	B	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Funding required. Proposal needs developing. Project in Uz in 2014-5 (Whitley award)
3) Habitat degradation and infrastructure development	3.1. Improve understanding of impacts of development on saigas.	3.1.1 Monitor saiga status across different parts of range, including developed and natural areas	1	A	All SCA filials.	Ongoing for some populations. Funding for improved monitoring needed for Ru & Uz
		3.1.2 Research landscape-level drivers of impact of industrial development on saiga numbers and distribution	1	A	All SCA filials	Some research completed in Uz (J. Bull) & Kz (K. Olsen). Across the range funding required. Proposal needs developing.
		3.1.3 Develop suggestions for mitigation	2	A	All SCA filials	Funding required. Proposal needs

		measures e.g. standardization of infrastructure design				developing.
		3.1.4 Horizon scan for future potential landscape change and effects (including industry, Climate Change, PAs)	3	B	All SCA filials	Specific funding not required
		3.1.5 Develop and disseminate best practice in saiga-friendly development	3	B	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Specific funding not required
	3.2. Increased capacity of developers and stakeholders to engage with Saiga conservation.	3.2.1 Joint development and implementation of action plan for biodiversity conservation in saiga range	2	B	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Specific funding not required
		3.2.2 Promote best practices re. development internationally e.g. ESIA's, IFC-PS6, and use of offsets/mitigation measures	2	B	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Specific funding not required
		3.2.3 Establish working groups comprised of representatives of government representatives, industrial organizations and NGOs	3	B	All SCA filials	Specific funding not required
	3. Improve understanding and implementation of sustainable rangeland use	3.3.1 Analyze farmer land use and current use impact	2	B	All SCA filials, except China	Funding required. Proposal needs developing
		3.3.2 Review best practice re. sustainable rangeland use	2	B	All SCA filials, except China	Combine with 3.3.1
		3.3.2 Produce recommendations based on above and disseminate	2	B	All SCA filials, except China	No additional funding required
4. Insufficient collaboration between SCA and	4.1. Collaboration between governments concerned and	4.1.1 Identify key collaborators (from governments, NGOs, universities) in each country	1	A	All SCA filials	Specific funding not required



governments concerned	SCA improved or established.	4.1.1 Work with these to establish/improve collaboration	1	B	All SCA filials	Specific funding not required
		4.1.3 Explore membership of SCA for government and individual officials	1	B	All SCA filials	Specific funding not required
		4.1.4 Use SRC to create positive and collaborative working environment for all stakeholders to share experiences	2	A	SCA int. to lead with engagement from all filials.	SRC is funded to some extent for 2014, continue to solicit funding
		4.1.5 Ensure national focal points for the CMS MoU are responsible for integration of human factors and public awareness into policy implementation	2	A	All SCA filials, SRC managers	Specific funding not required
	4.2. SCA is considered a reliable partner in saiga conservation by governments concerned.	4.2.1 Use SCA's network role to maximize collaboration between NGOs, governments, research institutions	2	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	No additional funding required
		4.2.2 Provide professional and scientific advice to government	2	A	All SCA filials	No additional funding required
		4.2.3 Communicate fully about SCA work and role with each government (e.g. proposals, results and Saiga News) before, during and after activities	2	B	All SCA filials	No additional funding required. Saiga News needs continued external funding.
		4.2.4 Implement actions/projects jointly where possible	2	B	All SCA filials	No additional funding required
5. Saiga populations low and range constrained	5.1. Improve stakeholder understanding of methods and consequences of reintroductions	5.1.1 Develop SCA position statement(s) on general and specific reintroductions	2	B	SCA Intl	Specific funding not required. D Mallon?
		5.1.2 Distribute statement to key stakeholders and advocate as appropriate	2	B	All SCA filials	Specific funding not required



		5.1.3 Put (in relevant languages) IUCN guidelines on SRC, and relevant documents	3	B	SCA intl.	Specific funding not required
5.2. Improve capacity and effectiveness of captive populations to fulfill their multiple roles		5.2.1 Support best practice captive breeding centres in their conservation activities e.g. develop and support funding proposals and strategic plans	1	A	SCA int. with SCA filials with breeding centres; Russia, China.	Funding required. Proposal needs developing
		5.2.2 Engage more actively with international zoo community to support full range of SCA activities e.g. EAZA, AZA, WAZA, e.g. supporting CWA public engagement and saigas in zoos)	1	B	SCA int. with SCA filials with breeding centres; Russia, China.	Proposals to be developed, but includes actions which do not require specific funding
		5.2.3 Clarify roles of breeding centres and feasibility of roles	2	B	SCA filials with breeding centres; Russia, China	Specific funding not required
		5.2.4 Define and disseminate best practice for saiga breeding guidelines and translate existing Russian guidelines to Chinese	2	B	SCA-Intl, SCA-Russia and SCA-China	Specific funding not required
		5.2.5 Transfer expertise from Russia to breeding centres in other range states	2	A	SCA-Russia, SCA intl	Proposals to be developed for exchange visits
5.3. Improve understanding of the current ranges all the saiga populations		5.3.1. Develop a system for exchange of information recorded on GIS	2	B	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Funding required, proposal needs developing.
6. SCA's lack of institutional stability	6.1. Increase institutional stability	6.1.1 Develop a cross-network active fundraising strategy providing sufficient financial resources for key SCA activities	1	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Specific funding not required
		6.1.2 An increased commitment to building the SCA across the whole network	1	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Specific funding not required



		6.1.3 Greater sharing and discussion for improved efficiency across the network	1	B	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Specific funding not required. Use SRC forum? Specific funding not required
		6.1.4 Succession planning (SCA overall and range states)	2	B	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Existing capability through SRC and Saiga News needs ongoing funding
		6.1.5 Improve capacity to share information with stakeholders	2	B	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Funding required to expand hard copy circulation
		6.1.6 Expand the distribution and profile of Saiga News, both in hard copy at a local level and through other media, nationally and internationally	2	A	All SCA filials & SCA int	Current funding for first year of Young Conservation Leaders project, proposal submitted to DWCF for second year.
		6.1.7 Increase the number of active members of the SCA in each country	2	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Specific funding not required
		6.1.8 Agree over-arching and population specific (not country specific) strategic plans	2	B	All SCA filials & SCA int.	Some provisioning through Young Conservation Leaders project, funding sources and proposals for purely administrative roles need developing.
		6.1.9 Increase SCA administrative capacity across the whole network	2	A	All SCA filials & SCA int.	