

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Community-based conservation of saiga antelopes through the development of wildlife conservation associations in Kazakhstan



Saiga antelopes can now be observed more easily in the project area and their numbers grow.

Source: Peter Romanow

#### Background

The saiga antelope lives in the steppes of Central Asia. Its range is divided into four populations, which have recovered in recent years. Despite a strict ban on hunting, poaching continues to threaten the survival of the species. Both the meat and the horns of the male animals are illegally exported to China and are still used in traditional Chinese medicine. The local population is interested in the survival and recovery and stabilization of saiga populations, as the species and the hunting of it are culturally and economically important.

#### Project details

The project built the capacity of the existing village wildlife associations and their association "Tabigi Orta". In addition to three existing associations, people in other villages of the saiga habitat have been mobilised to participate in community-based conservation of the species. The association has established a voluntary conservation inspectorate that works closely with the relevant authorities in implementing conservation measures. The association, thus strengthened, successfully applied for the allocation of a game management area of 4900 km<sup>2</sup>, tendered by the regional authorities. As a result it now has the authority and responsibility to protect the saiga antelopes and other wildlife in this area. After the lifting of the temporary hunting ban expected in 2023, local hunters will be able to participate in the legal sustainable use of saigas in this area. The project staff and representatives of the association are in regular exchange with authorities and the public. Experiences from the project are brought into the national and international discussion.

Updated: December 2022

**Project country:** Kazakhstan

**Duration:** 04/2021 – 12/2022

**Beneficiaries:** Wildlife conservation associations in villages in the target region and their association "Tabigi Orta"

**Implementing organisation:** Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union Germany (NABU)

**Project number:** 154789

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#### Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

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[www.uba.de/en/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme](http://www.uba.de/en/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme)

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**Project website:** <https://bit.ly/Nabu-Saiga-EN>