

PROJECT INFORMATION

Community-based conservation of saiga antelope through village level wildlife areas in Kazakhstan



Members of the wildlife conservation organization “Bayan-Shagan” are observing saiga

Source: Stefan Michel

Background

The steppes of Central Asia are the habitat of the saiga antelope. The range area is divided into four mutually isolated populations. The species is critically endangered. Poaching threatens the survival of the species despite the strict hunting ban. The poachers are interested in the meat as well as in the horn of the males, which are illegally exported to China and used in the Traditional Chinese Medicine. The local people are interested in the survival, recovery and stabilizing of the saiga herds because the species and the hunting of it are of high importance both culturally as well as from an economic perspective.

Project details

Supported by this advisory assistance the local non-governmental organisation “Koldau-Kazakhstan” has started the establishment of a community-based system for the saiga antelope’s Ustyurt population, which is acutely threatened with extinction. In several communities with special involvement of local hunters and former poachers the situation was analysed and options were identified for the conservation of the saiga antelope and other species through activities at community level. Legal consultation supported the registration of village level wildlife conservation organisations. These organisations joined into an association and started the creation of a joint conservation inspection service. A written guidance, practical training and collaboration with governmental agencies enable the voluntary rangers to monitor and protect the saiga herds in a qualified way. The project team jointly with the members of the local organisations identified future wildlife conservation areas. Further activities will be needed for the formal establishment of the wildlife conservation areas.

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Beneficiary country: Kazakhstan

Duration: 12/2018 – 02/2020

Beneficiary: Non-governmental organisation Koldau-Kazakhstan

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

Project number: 113814

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