

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Combating Wildlife Trafficking Program
Species Conservation Catalyst Fund
Active Projects – Saiga Antelope

Since FY2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has awarded funding to six projects totaling \$3,156,146 to combat poaching and trafficking of saiga antelope through the Combating Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) Program's Species Conservation Catalyst Fund. Future incremental funding is expected for one project, bringing the total of current and planned support to \$3,243,860. This funding leveraged an additional \$282,118 in matching funds to support critical conservation efforts for saiga. Projects are located in seven saiga range, transit, or consumer countries, including projects in multiple countries (in alphabetical order below).

CHINA

Award # F22AP03167

An Evidence-Based Approach to Catalyze Reduction of Illegal Saiga Horn Trade in China. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to reduce the threat of poaching and trafficking to saiga antelope by understanding the saiga horn supply chain and consumption environment in China and catalyzing demand reduction through evidence-based behavioral science approaches. Specific activities include: (1) a strategic study on the saiga horn illegal supply chain and consumption environment in China, (2) system mapping and creation of a behavioral target statement, (3) development of a user journey map to understand and identify the factors driving the target behavior, (4) development and selection of the best approaches to address the identified behavioral barriers, (5) testing of evidence-based interventions targeting specific behaviors of key actors in the saiga horn supply chain, and (6) dissemination of knowledge and insights on saiga horn demand reduction to relevant stakeholders.

Period of performance: 10/01/2022 - 09/30/2024

USFWS: \$400,000 **Leveraged funds:** \$235,676

MALAYSIA

Award # F22AP03271

Taking Stock: Establishing an Effective Saiga Horn Stockpile Management System in Malaysia. In partnership with TRAFFIC International. The purpose of this project is to prevent illegal and unregulated trade of saiga antelope horn by institutionalizing a transparent and robust saiga horn stockpile management system in Malaysia. Specific activities include: (1) development of a joint project implementation plan with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks of Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP), (2) review of Peninsular Malaysia's current saiga horn stockpile management processes and resources, (3) workshop to establish the process for a scoping exercise to assess trader-held saiga horn stockpiles, (4) assessment of the distribution and quantities of existing saiga horn stockpiles held by Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) traders in four

Peninsular Malaysia states as well as government-held stockpiles, (5) review of stockpile management best practices in China, a key saiga horn consumer and trading country, including information sharing meetings between relevant government authorities in China and Malaysia, (6) establishment of an electronic database for saiga stockpiles and clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), (7) training for DWNP on effective stockpile management, (8) dissemination of project outcomes amongst relevant stakeholders, and (9) saiga horn trade monitoring to detect illegal practices and verify the utility of introduced stockpile management systems.

Period of performance: 10/01/2022 - 10/01/2025

USFWS: \$426,026 **Leveraged funds:** \$0

MONGOLIA

Award # F22AP03161

Tackling Saiga Antelope Horn Sourcing and Trafficking in Mongolia through an Evidence-Based Approach to Improve Law and Policy Enforcement Activities. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to reduce threats to saiga antelope in Mongolia by disrupting trafficking, strengthening law enforcement capacity, and establishing chain-of-custody and stockpile management systems. Specific activities include: (1) assessment of the proportion of households (rural and urban) that participate in sourcing and trading in saiga horns, (2) identification of online and physical market points for saiga horn trade and the prevalence of individuals engaged in horn trade and transport, (3) training for regional law enforcement in deterrence theory and problem-oriented policing practices, (4) development of a chain of custody system for confiscated horns, including a horn storage and monitoring protocol, (5) development of and training related to protocols for carcass handling and horn removal when individual carcasses are encountered in the field during patrols or during mass mortality events.

Period of performance: 10/01/2022 - 09/30/2025

USFWS: \$580,088 **Leveraged funds:** \$3,242

MULTIPLE – JAPAN, SINGAPORE

Award # F22AP03118

Reducing demand for saiga horn in Japan and Singapore. In partnership with Chancellor Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford. The purpose of this project is to reduce the threat of poaching and trafficking to saiga antelope by addressing evidence gaps related to consumer behavior and drivers of consumption in Japan and Singapore and reducing consumption through behavior change interventions. Specific activities include: (1) collection of updated consumer data in Singapore to understand the potential impact of COVID-19 on the demand for saiga horn products, (2) characterization of motivations and profile of saiga horn consumers in Japan, as well as the socio-cultural context where consumption takes place, (3) segmentation of saiga horn consumers in Japan and prioritization of potential target audiences for interventions, (4) co-design of behavior change interventions in collaboration with priority saiga horn

consumers in Japan and Singapore, and (5) implementation and subsequent evaluation of behavior change interventions.

Period of performance: 12/01/2022 - 05/31/2026

USFWS: \$506,358 **Leveraged funds:** \$300

MULTIPLE – KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN

Award # F22AP03132

Strengthening Local Capacity to Lead Evidence-Based Conservation of Saiga in Their Native Habitats in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The purpose of this project is to address poaching and trafficking of saiga antelope by protecting and conserving saiga populations in their native habitats in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Specific activities include: (1) analysis of drivers of saiga poaching, including identification of knowledge gaps and priority research needs, (2) training on collecting and analyzing sensitive data related to poaching behaviors, (3) field research to improve understanding of what enables poaching, (4) training for research teams in data analysis and scientific paper writing, (5) development of situational crime prevention recommendations for three saiga populations, (6) review of patrolling data and development of practical recommendations for law enforcement agencies to improve data collection, analysis procedures, and broader adaptive management, (7) development and implementation of ranger training modules on community engagement, (8) provision of targeted field supplies to improve efficacy and safety of six patrol teams, (9) capacity development of local non-governmental organization and government agency staff to secure and manage grant funding to strengthen locally-led saiga conservation activities, (10) mentorship on organizational development and resilience for a key national conservation organization in Kazakhstan (Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan), and (11) support for professional development opportunities for seven emerging conservation leaders from across the saiga range, with priority given to women, ethnic minorities, and individuals from saiga landscapes.

Period of performance: 10/01/2022 - 09/30/2026

USFWS: \$999,496 **Leveraged funds:** \$0

MULTIPLE – RANGE-WIDE

Award # F22AC03485

Building a collaborative foundation for evidence-based saiga antelope conservation. In partnership with the Saiga Conservation Alliance. The purpose of this project is to strengthen conservation outcomes for saiga antelope by providing opportunities for relevant actors to come together in a sustainable and inclusive network, fostering ongoing learning and evidence generation, and investing in capacity building for long-term sustainability. Specific activities include: (1) two workshops to convene USFWS-funded saiga partners and other relevant stakeholders to build relationships, share information, explore synergies, and identify and fill evidence gaps, (2) assessment of how the USFWS-funded projects contribute to the Convention of Migratory Species Medium-Term International Work Programme for Saiga, (3) a collaborative whole-supply-chain

evidence gap analysis and theory of change to catalyze a transformative improvement in saiga status, (4) horizon scan to identify potential new threats to long-term saiga conservation, (5) joint publications and briefings for key stakeholders, including key outcomes and recommendations from the USFWS-funded saiga projects, (6) support for project teams to attend relevant trainings, workshops, and capacity-building activities, in addition to exchanges between countries, to maximize synergies between projects and build communities of practice, (7) support for targeted subject matter expertise and/or specific trainings for individual USFWS-funded projects, (8) development of a communications platform for all project teams, (9) development and maintenance of a dedicated USFWS-portfolio site within the existing Saiga Resource Centre to share project materials, (10) production of articles for the biannual six-language online and in-print newsletter Saiga News to disseminate results of USFWS-funded projects to a wide audience, and (11) portfolio-level monitoring, evaluation, and learning to assess evidence building efforts.

Period of performance: 10/01/2022 - 09/30/2027

USFWS: \$244,178¹ **Leveraged funds:** \$45,400

¹ An additional \$87,714 is expected in future incremental funding, for a total award amount of \$331,892.