



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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RANGE STATE MEETING ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION AND REVISION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ARGALI (*Ovis ammon*)
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 12-13 September 2024

DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ARGALI

(as of 12 August 2024)

DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ARGALI 2025-2032

1. In line with Decision 14.167 d) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12-17 February 2024, the CMS Secretariat commissioned the revision of the Action Plan to streamline its activities by integrating them in the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) Programme of Work (PoW) and developing a set of specific activities for conservation units of the species.
2. Therefore, the Secretariat suggests following a different approach for the development of the Argali Action Plan for 2024-2032 than the previous Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for 2014-2024¹. Cross-cutting activities concerning the species as such or other CAMI species (preliminary included in Annex 1) shall be included in the next CAMI PoW for 2026-2032, whereas this document will focus on activities of special relevance for specific conservation units of Argali.
3. Conservation units can be subspecies, populations of the species or parts of populations in specific areas. This Action Plan is based on the sites identified as relevant for Argali in the report on “Mapping Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative” as conservation units, which are listed in the Table below.

Transboundary hotspots identified in the report “Mapping Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative”:

No.	Hotspot ID as per Report	Site name	Subspecies	Geographic area	Countries
1)	1	High Pamirs	Pamir Argali or Marco Polo Sheep <i>O.a.poli</i>	South-eastern Tajik Pamirs, Great and Little Pamir, Sarikol Pamir (Taxkorgan), Khunjerab Pass region of Karakoram	Afghanistan-China-Pakistan-Tajikistan
2)	25	Western Tien Shan	Tien Shan Argali <i>O.a.karelini</i>	Ugam-Chatkal NNP, SSNR Chatkal, SSNR Aksu-Zhabagly, SSNR Besh Aral	Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan
3)	32	Pamir-Alai	Pamir Argali or Marco Polo Sheep <i>O.a.poli</i>	Transalai and Alai ranges, Alai valley	Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan-Uzbekistan
4)	14	Khan Tengri region	Tien Shan Argali <i>O.a.karelini</i>	Khan Tengri massif in the Tian Shan, incl. Khan Tengri NP in Kyrgyzstan	China-Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan
5)	23	Western Kyrgyz Range	Tien Shan Argali <i>O.a.karelini</i>	Kyrgyz range in Jambyl province	Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan

¹ https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Argali_SSAP_final_English.pdf

				(Kazakhstan) and Talas province (Kyrgyzstan)	
6)	24	Northern Tien Shan	Tien Shan Argali <i>O.a.karelini</i>	Zaili-Alatoo and Kungey-Alatoo	Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan
7)	31	Eastern Turkestan Range	Severtzov Argali <i>O.a.severtzovi</i>	Hissaro-Alai system (eastern Turkestan range)	Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan
8)	36	Western Turkestan Range	Severtzov Argali <i>O.a.severtzovi</i>	Turkestan Range west of Shahrستان	Tajikistan-Uzbekistan
9)	15	Altai	Altai Argali <i>O.a.ammon</i>	N-Central part and SE part of Altai mountains	China-Kazakhstan-Mongolia-Russian Federation
10)	9	Khangchendzonga-Sikkim Plateau	Tibet Argali <i>O.a.hodgsoni</i>	Khangchendzonga region, northern plateau of Sikkim and adjacent areas (Bhutan, China, India, Nepal)	China-Bhutan-India-Nepal
11)	10	Western Trans-Himalaya	Tibet Argali <i>O.a.hodgsoni</i>	Uttarakhand (especially Gangotri NP) (India), Upper Humla valley (Nepal) and adjacent areas (China)	China-India-Nepal
12)	11	Changthang and Spiti	Tibet Argali <i>O.a.hodgsoni</i>	Changthang plateau in Ladakh and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh with adjacent areas of northern Tibetan Plateau	China-India
13)	12	Jungarian Alatau	Tien Shan Argali <i>O.a.karelini</i>	Jungarian Alatau, entire mountain area	China-Kazakhstan
14)	13	Tarbagatay and Saur Ranges	<i>O.a.collium or karelini</i>	Continuous area along the China-Kazakhstan border	China-Kazakhstan
15)	16	Southern Tien Shan	<i>O.a.karelini or polii</i>	Entire mountain range along border with China	China-Kyrgyzstan
16)	17	Gobi Desert – Yin mountains	Gobi Argali <i>O.a.darwini</i>	Southern edges of Gobi	China-Mongolia

				Desert and Yin Mountains. Possibly several separate sections.	
17)	18	SW Gobi	Gobi Argali <i>O.a.darwini</i>	Gobi-Altai - Xinjiang	China-Mongolia
18)	19	Jungarian Gobi	Gobi Argali <i>O.a.darwini</i>	Great Gobi B SPA Khovd-Xinjiang	(China)-Mongolia
19)	33	Eastern Sayan	Altai Argali <i>O.a.ammon</i>	Tuva/Irkutsk prov. /Buryatiya - Khovsgol	Mongolia-Russian Federation

Subspecies or populations entirely or largely restricted to one country:

- 20) Severtzov argali *O.a.severtzovi* in Uzbekistan (Nurota (Nuratau) range, Oqtov (Aktau) range, Tomdi (Tamdytau) mountains)
- 21) Karatau argali *O.a.nigrimontana* in Kazakhstan (Karatau range)
- 22) Kazakhstan argali *O.a.collium* in the hill-lands of Kazakhstan
- 23) Gobi argali *O.a.darwini* in XXX of Mongolia

INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ARGALI

Goal: to maintain and restore argali populations to a favourable conservation status throughout their range, with a particular focus on transboundary populations.

Nr.	Conservation measures	Priority ²	Responsibility ³
1.0	Measures affecting several or all conservation units		
1.1	Develop rangeland management plans in key sites to maintain and restore intact rangelands (all)	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, holders of game management areas
1.2	Intensify anti-poaching in and beyond protected areas	1	GOs, NGOs, holders of game management areas
1.3	Strengthen the transboundary monitoring of Argali by standardizing the monitoring methods	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
1.4	Develop and implement monitoring programmes, conduct regular monitoring and coordinate monitoring activities with neighbouring countries (all)	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, holders of hunting areas
<i>Specific measures for conservation units</i>			
2.0	1) High Pamirs (Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan)		
2.1	Remove or reconstruct in a wildlife-friendly manner the border fences between Tajikistan-Afghanistan and Tajikistan-China	1	GOs (border authorities, environmental protection authorities), advice by scientific institutions, NGOs
2.2	New fences China-Tajikistan, China-Pakistan and China-Afghanistan: limit the length of new fences and mitigate impacts of to increase connectivity, transboundary migration and range expansion (into Pakistan) for Argali.	1	GOs (border authorities, environmental protection authorities), advice by scientific institutions, NGOs
2.3	Start negotiations on mitigation of existing barriers	2	GOs, advice by scientific institutions, NGOs

² Priority for implementing within 6 years: 1 – high (high importance and urgency for solving conservation issues affecting the animals and their habitat now). 2 - medium (necessary for stabilization of numbers within 3-5 years). 3 -low (will contribute to population restoration, but is not urgently needed).

Nr.	Conservation measures	Priority ²	Responsibility ³
2.4	Assess potential impact on Argali habitat and corridors of the infrastructure projects under the “Belt and Road Initiative” and identify necessary political intervention for avoidance, mitigation and compensation of impact.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
3.0	2) Western Tien Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan)		
3.1	Collaborate across borders on monitoring, conservation activities and tourism development in the context of the PA network in the western Tien Shan	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
3.2	Conduct training for protected area staff, in particular on working with the public, law enforcement and monitoring, including application of SMART	1	GOs, NGOs
3.3	Assess feasibility of proposed Argali reintroduction in the Uzbekistan part of the Western Tien Shan.	3	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
3.4	Support the development of community-based wildlife watching offers including Argali through initial investment and assistance in tourism product development and marketing, ensuring the link between benefits and conservation efforts	3	GOs, NGOs, communities, private business
3.5	For extractive use, assign more suitable areas with potential for Argali management to community-based entities.	3	GOs, NGOs
3.6	Allocate hunting quotas to community-based entities managing hunting areas when Argali numbers there have reached established thresholds.	3	GOs, NGOs scientific institutions
4.0	3) Pamir-Alai (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)		
4.1	Monitor grazing intensity, seasonal and spatial patterns and develop and implement restrictions, if necessary.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
4.2	Strengthen community involvement in wildlife conservation: intensify anti-poaching efforts in currently neglected areas through the development of community-based wildlife management.	1	GOs, NGOs
4.3	For extractive use, assign more suitable areas with potential for Argali management to community-based entities.	1	GOs, NGOs
4.4	Allocate hunting quotas to community-based entities managing hunting areas when Argali numbers there have reached established thresholds	2	GOs, NGOs scientific institutions
5.0	4) Khan Tengri Region (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)		

Nr.	Conservation measures	Priority ²	Responsibility ³
5.1	Assess potential impact on Argali habitat and corridors of the infrastructure projects under “Belt and Road Initiative” and implement measures for avoidance, mitigation and compensation of impact.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
5.2	Assess necessity and feasibility to mitigate barrier effects of existing and planned border fences, in particular between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
5.3	Develop interventions to mitigate effects of border fences on wildlife, where possible.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
5.4	Involve border guards in conservation.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
5.5	Prevent expansion of grazing areas.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
5.6	Support development of eco-tourism and apply impact assessment procedures making sure that any planned touristic infrastructure or activities are not harmful to Argali populations and their habitat	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
5.7	Ensure that hunting and management in hunting concession areas are sustainable, enhance collaboration between hunting concessions and protected area administrations and conduct integrated conservation and monitoring action	2	private business, GOs, scientific institutions
5.8	Involve local people in management and sustainable use of Argali, where appropriate.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, private business
5.9	Intensify cross-border exchange and collaboration at the level of protected areas, scientists and NGOs	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
5.10	Consider revision of borders, zoning and regulations of NNP Khan Tengiri for achieving better conservation of Argali and its habitats	3	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, communities, private business
5.11	Conduct transboundary assessments and monitoring of wildlife populations and habitats	3	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
6.0	5) Western Kyrgyz Range (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)		
6.1	Assess and monitor: Argali actual range area and population size as well as connectivity with other parts of its range area.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, private business
6.2	Assess impact of livestock grazing and develop respective interventions for minimizing degradation of habitat quality for Argali, forage competition and disease transmission risk.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
6.3	Improve management of hunting areas and enable local communities to develop community-based wildlife management, where possible.	2	GOs, NGOs

Nr.	Conservation measures	Priority ²	Responsibility ³
6.4	Support the development of community-based wildlife watching offers including Argali through initial investment and assistance in tourism product development and marketing, ensuring the link between benefits and conservation efforts.	2	GOs, NGOs, communities, private business
6.5	For extractive use, assign more suitable areas with potential for Argali management to community-based entities.	2	GOs, NGOs
6.6	Allocate hunting quotas to community-based entities managing hunting areas when Argali numbers there have reached established thresholds	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
7.0	6) Northern Tien Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)		
7.1	Improve transboundary collaboration between protected areas, scientific organizations and NGOs in monitoring, research, conservation management and regulation of transboundary development.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
7.2	Expand and consolidate zones without livestock grazing.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
7.3	Support development of eco-tourism and apply impact assessment procedures making sure that any planned touristic infrastructure or activities are not harmful to Argali populations and their habitat.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
7.4	Develop community-based wildlife management to prevent poaching and incentivize protection of wildlife and its habitat by local people and reduce reliance on livestock.	1	GOs, NGOs
7.5	Support the development of community-based wildlife watching offers including Argali through initial investment and assistance in tourism product development and marketing, ensuring the link between benefits and conservation efforts.	2	GOs, NGOs, communities, private business
7.6	For extractive use, where it is permitted, assign more suitable areas with potential for Argali management to community-based entities.	2	GOs, NGOs
7.7	Allocate hunting quotas to community-based entities managing hunting areas when Argali numbers there have reached established thresholds	2	GOs, NGOs scientific institutions
8.0	7) Eastern Turkestan Range (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)		
8.1	Strengthen anti-poaching efforts, in particular through the development of community-based wildlife management.	1	GOs, NGOs
8.2	Restrict grazing to avoid pasture/land degradation and reduce competition for pasture between livestock and Argali	1	GOs, NGOs
8.3	Intensify and coordinate monitoring of Argali	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions

Nr.	Conservation measures	Priority ²	Responsibility ³
8.4	Support the development of community-based wildlife watching offers including Argali through initial investment and assistance in tourism product development and marketing, ensuring the link between benefits and conservation efforts.	2	GOs, NGOs, communities, private business
8.5	Where hunting is possible, assign more suitable areas with potential for Argali management to community-based entities.	2	GOs, NGOs scientific institutions
8.6	Allocate hunting quotas to community-based entities managing hunting areas when Argali numbers there have reached established thresholds	2	GOs, NGOs scientific institutions
9.0	8) Western Turkestan Range (Tajikistan-Uzbekistan)		
9.1	Expand Zaamin SSNR and Zaamin National Park by annexing the adjacent north-facing slopes of the Turkestan Range.	1	GOs, NGOs
9.2	Restrict grazing to avoid pasture/land degradation and reduce competition for pasture between livestock and Argali	1	GOs, NGOs
9.3	Intensify and coordinate monitoring of Argali	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
9.4	Develop community-based wildlife management for the conservation of Severtzov's Argali under consideration of transboundary management and monitoring of the population.	2	GOs, NGOs
9.5	Prevent trophy hunting of Argali until the population has reached sufficient size for sustainable use and suitable management and benefit sharing are in place.	2	GOs, NGOs
9.6	Revise Argali hunting systems or introduce hunting schemes, which ensure effective involvement of and direct benefits for local communities and conservation.	2	GOs, NGOs
10.0	9) Altai (China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russian Federation)		
10.1	Remove or mitigate of border fences in critical areas.	1	GOs, NGOs
10.2	Restrict grazing to avoid pasture/land degradation and reduce competition for pasture between livestock and Argali	1	GOs, NGOs
10.3	Increase anti-poaching efforts.	1	GOs, NGOs
10.4	Intensify transboundary collaboration.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
10.5	Implement the conservation measures of relevance for Argali recommended in the Strategy for the conservation of Snow Leopard in Russian Federation	3	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions

Nr.	Conservation measures	Priority ²	Responsibility ³
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop game management territories and realize measures to restore Argali populations (primarily on Chikhachev, Southern Chuisky, Tsagan-Shibetu, and Sangilen Ridges and Mongun-Taiga Massif); • Guarantee effective work by regional authorized executive agencies for wildlife protection and antipoaching enforcement against poaching of Argali. • Develop collaboration among nature conservation and legal enforcement agencies in government to strengthen the fight against illegal trade in Argali. • Create conditions for economic stimulation of game management territories in areas where the Argali is present or may reappear, including by means of attracting investment and other extra-budgetary funding sources. • Establish rigorous veterinary oversight of populations of wild and domesticated animals, conduct screenings for various infectious diseases of all dead ungulates. • Within snow leopard habitats, develop and bring into practice a system for sustainable rangeland management for free-range livestock grazing that considers the needs of wild ungulates.⁴ 		
10.6	Establish section of SSNR Ubsungurskaya Dolina at the Sangilen Range in Russian Federation.	3	GOs, NGOs
11.0	10) Khangchendzonga-Sikkim Plateau (China, Bhutan, India, Nepal)		
11.1	Conduct a meeting to establish transboundary collaboration, exchange of experience.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
11.2	Mitigate barrier effect of border fences and border-related disturbance.	1	GOs, NGOs
11.3	Assess range areas, habitat use, and population connectivity, sizes and trends of Argali	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
11.4	Conduct research and surveys to determine conservation interventions and implement these.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
12.0	11) Western Trans-Himalaya (China, India, Nepal)		
12.1	Enhance transboundary collaboration, exchange experience	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
12.2	Mitigate barrier effect of border fences	1	GOs, NGOs
12.3	Assess range areas, habitat use, and population sizes and trends of Argali.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
12.4	Determine and implement conservation interventions.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
13.0	12) Changthang and Spiti (China, India)		
13.1	Enhance transboundary collaboration, exchange experience and	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions

⁴ Modified for relevance for Argali. Strategy available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/31230067_STRATEGY_for_snow_leopard_conservation_in_the_Russian_Federation [accessed Aug 08 2024].

Nr.	Conservation measures	Priority ²	Responsibility ³
13.2	Mitigate barrier effect of border fences.	1	GOs, NGOs
13.3	Assess range areas, habitat use, and population sizes and trends of target species.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
13.4	Determine and implement conservation interventions specifically addressing identified threats.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
14.0	13) Jungarian Alatau (China, Kazakhstan)		
14.1	Establish transboundary collaboration, exchange of experience	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
14.2	Mitigate barrier effect of border fences; address issue of parallel fences of both countries.	1	GOs, NGOs
14.3	Assess range areas, habitat use, and population sizes and trends of Argali.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
14.4	Determine and implement conservation interventions.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
15.0	14) Tarbagatay and Saur Ranges (China, Kazakhstan)		
15.1	Establish transboundary collaboration for exchange of information, coordinated monitoring and conservation interventions.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
15.2	Enhance permeability of the border fences for Argali; address issue of parallel fences of both countries.	1	GOs, NGOs
15.3	Restrict livestock grazing and involve of local people in management and sustainable use of Argali.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
15.4	Consider allowing limited Argali hunting in Kazakhstan	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
15.5	Establish incentives for Argali conservation and prevention of poaching through regulated hunting, benefiting game area holders and local people.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
16.0	15) Southern Tien Shan (China, Kyrgyzstan)		
16.1	Assess potential impact on Argali habitat and corridors of the infrastructure projects under “Belt and Road Initiative” and implement measures for avoidance, mitigation and compensation of impact.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
16.2	Assess current state and planned development of the border fences and their impact.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
16.3	Develop mitigation measures for barrier effect of border fences.	1	GOs, NGOs
16.4	Establish seasonal and permanent grazing exclusion zones,	1	GOs, NGOs
16.5	Prevent poaching, in particular through community involvement in and benefit sharing from regulated hunting of Argali and Asiatic Ibex.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions

Nr.	Conservation measures	Priority ²	Responsibility ³
16.6	Assess and control impact of dogs kept by herders (herd protection dogs and hunting dogs) to reduce Argali disturbance and mortality.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
17.0	16) Gobi Desert – Yin mountains (China, Mongolia)		
17.1	Consider fence removal proposed between Station 21 (N 43.749708°, E 111.856505°) which lies a few kilometers north of Zamyn-Uud near the border with China, and Airag (N 45.778356°, E 109.335991°) to restore animal movements	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
17.2	Consider leaving fencing along railways only near human settlements to prevent collisions with free ranging livestock	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
17.3	Restrict grazing to avoid pasture/land degradation and reduce competition for pasture between livestock and Argali	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
17.4	Enact veterinary measures to prevent disease transmission between Argali and livestock	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
17.5	Create, and/or expand livestock exclusion zones.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
18.0	17) SW Gobi (China, Mongolia)		
18.1	Regulate grazing and restrict livestock in critical areas of the buffer zone at the boundaries of Great Gobi a Strictly Protected Area.	1	GOs, NGOs
19.0	18) Jungarian Gobi (China, Mongolia)		
19.1	Severely restrict grazing of domestic horses and reduce, or at least prevent any increase in grazing of other livestock	1	GOs, NGOs
19.2	Conduct studies to better understand pasture competition between the full range of wild and domestic ungulates in this area	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
19.3	Create transboundary wildlife corridor(s) for Argali.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
20.0	19) Eastern Sayan (Mongolia, Russian Federation)		
20.1	Intensify transboundary collaboration.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
20.2	Remove or mitigate border fences in critical areas.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
20.3	Restrict grazing to avoid pasture/land degradation and reduce competition for pasture between livestock and Argali	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
20.4	Increase anti-poaching efforts.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions

Nr.	Conservation measures	Priority ²	Responsibility ³
20.5	Conduct status assessment of the target species with determination of conservation potential, threats and options to address these.	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
20.6	Implement conservation measures recommended in the Strategy for the conservation of Snow Leopard in Russian Federation as far as relevant for Argali in the conservation unit (see 10.5)	3	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
20.7	Establish a protected area in the Eastern Sayan of Russian Federation, in Mongolia in Khovsgol region protected areas are functional	3	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
21.0	20) Severtzov argali <i>O.a.severtzovi</i> in Uzbekistan (Nurota (Nuratau) range, Oqtov (Aktau) range, Tomdi (Tamdytau) mountains		
21.1	Improve the protection of Argali in the western and eastern parts of the Nuratau Range, including effective management in existing and establishment of new hunting management areas	1	GOs, NGOs, private business
21.2	Establish effective management of Aktau zakaznik, including development of institutional structure, management planning, implementation and enforcement of regulations	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, private business
21.3	Address threats related with the industrial development in the Tamdytau mountains through comprehensive assessment of Argali population, actual and potential habitat use and quality, current and predictable impact of the development and elaboration, implementation and monitoring of effectiveness of avoidance and mitigation measures.	1	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, private business
21.4	Finalize the expansion of Nuratau SSNR, adding key Argali habitat in the south of the current PA territory	2	GOs
22.0	21) Karatau argali <i>O.a.nigrimontana</i> in Kazakhstan (Karatau range)		
22.1	Improve the functional connectivity of the Argali habitats through identification of factors hindering movements and habitat use and addressing these, e.g. by establishment of corridors, possibly as hunting management areas, between the protected areas	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions
22.2	Develop eco-tourism offers with integration of Argali observation in a manner benefiting the conservation work in and beyond the protected areas	3	GOs, NGOs, private business
22.3	Consider the development of sustainable hunting tourism as incentive for Argali conservation outside of protected areas	3	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, private business
23.0	22) Kazakhstan argali <i>O.a.collium</i> in the hill-lands of Kazakhstan		
23.1	Study the actual, past and potential connectivity and fragmentation of Argali subpopulations	1	NGOs, scientific institutions
23.2	Maintain and improve connectivity through appropriate means, including adequate consideration in planning of infrastructure and industrial development and improved protection	1	GOs, NGOs, private business

Nr.	Conservation measures	Priority ²	Responsibility ³
23.3	Assess the genetic diversity of small, isolated subpopulations and, where needed but connectivity for natural exchange cannot be improved, consider translocations	2	Scientific institutions, GOs, NGOs
23.4	Consider the development of sustainable hunting tourism as incentive for Argali conservation outside of protected areas	2	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, private business
23.5	Consider translocations of Argali for reintroduction in suitable parts of the former distribution range where recolonization by natural dispersal is not possible	3	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, private business
24.0	23) Gobi argali <i>O.a.darwini</i> in relevant areas of Mongolia		

**General activities from the SSAP 2014-2024 which will be integrated in CAMI POW after this meeting
(Russian version - see SSAP 2014-2024)**

Objective 1: To stabilize argali numbers and range, maintain a healthy sex/age ratio and reverse negative trends				
Result	Action	Priority	Time scale	Organisations responsible
1.1. Poaching and other human induced mortality are reduced	1.1.1. Implement effective anti-poaching measures addressing poaching at all levels Applicable to: All	Essential	On-going	Government agencies, Protected area managers, Hunting area managers
	1.1.2. Strengthen management capacity of trophy hunting concessions and clearly define hunting zones and seasons. Applicable to: Countries with trophy hunting programmes⁵	Essential	On-going	Hunting area managers, CIC, Government agencies
	1.1.3. Provide relevant training and equipment for law enforcement officers, PA staff, and others. Applicable to: All	High	Medium	Government agencies, International Ranger Federation, TRAFFIC, INTERPOL, International and national NGOs
	1.1.4. Report poaching incidents to mass media. Applicable to: All	Low	Medium	CMS argali contact points, Argali Working Group (WG), NGOs
	1.1.5. Develop a confiscation policy for argali products and ensure that benefits of retained or auctioned seized products are reinvested in argali conservation. Applicable to: All	Low	Long	Government agencies

⁵ As of 2024, range countries with current trophy hunting programmes are Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

	1.1.6. Address the threat of livestock-wildlife disease transmission through vaccination of livestock in appropriate cases, effective exclusion of livestock from PAs, health monitoring of argali and contiguous livestock populations. Applicable to: All	Medium	Long	Government veterinary agencies, hunting area managers, scientific institutions
1.2. Argali is used and managed sustainably, with support of local communities	1.2.1. Involve local communities formally in the management and sustainable use of argali and their habitat. Applicable to: All	Essential	Medium	Government agencies, Hunting area managers, NGOs, Development cooperation organizations
	1.2.2. Promote long-term assignment of management rights to communities. Applicable to: All	High	Medium	Government agencies, NGOs, Development cooperation organizations
	1.2.3. Ensure that a percentage of hunting revenues is dedicated to argali conservation Applicable to: Countries with trophy hunting programmes⁶	High	Medium	Government agencies, Hunting area managers/concessions NGOs
	1.2.4. Ensure the equitable benefit sharing of revenues from trophy hunting to local communities. Applicable to: Countries with trophy hunting programmes⁶	Essential	Medium	Government agencies, Hunting agencies, hunting area managers/concessions
	1.2.5. Promote sustainable community-based wildlife management programmes / trophy hunting programmes. Applicable to: Countries with trophy hunting programmes⁶ Potentially also in other areas	High	Medium	Hunting agencies, hunting concessions, hunting outfitters, NGOs, development cooperation organizations

⁶ As of 2024, range countries with current trophy hunting programmes are Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

	<p>1.2.6. Ensure sustainable harvest of argali and compliance with CITES, EU regulation and the US Endangered Species Act. Applicable to: Countries with trophy hunting programmes⁷</p>	High	Medium	<p>Law enforcement agencies, Hunting agencies, hunting concessions, scientific monitors, CITES Secretariat and argali contact points, national CITES authorities</p>
	<p>1.2.7. Review and where necessary strengthen legal and institutional measures concerning management of hunting areas, setting of quotas and allocation of licences and ensure their transparency. Applicable to: Countries with trophy hunting programmes⁷</p>	Medium	Medium	<p>National parliaments, Hunting agencies, Hunting concessions, CIC NGOs (independent monitoring), Development cooperation organizations</p>
	<p>1.2.8. Coordinate the allocation of quotas in trans-boundary populations among Range States. Applicable to: Countries where trophy hunting occurs across national boundaries</p>	Low	Long	<p>Government agencies, Argali WG</p>
	<p>1.2.9. Training law enforcement staff in implementation of CITES regulations, identification of argali products and techniques for countering illegal trade. Applicable to: All</p>	Medium	Medium	<p>CITES Secretariat, National CITES authorities, Law enforcement agencies, TRAFFIC</p>

⁷ As of 2024, range countries with current trophy hunting programmes are Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

	1.2.10 Discuss among all stakeholders the possibility of sustainable use of argali in countries where hunting does not exist at present. Applicable to: All, except Countries with trophy hunting programmes⁷	Medium	Medium	Government agencies, Protected area managers, Hunting agencies, Hunting associations, CITES etc.
Objective 2: To maintain and restore intact argali habitat and migration routes				
Result	Action	Priority	Time scale	Organisations responsible
2.1. Rangelands are sustainably managed and availability and quality for argali have improved	2.1.1. Develop rangeland management plans in key sites to maintain and restore intact rangelands. Applicable to: All	High	Medium	Government agencies, hunting area managers, range biologists, NGOs
	2.1.2. Involve local people living on and using argali habitat to improve land management and cohabitation of argali, livestock and people, including through Community Conservation Incentive Agreements. Applicable to: All	Medium	Long	Government agencies, hunting area managers, NGOs
	2.1.3. Monitor the effects of climate change on argali habitat and integrate mitigation measures and climate change adaptation scenarios into habitat/site management. Applicable to: All	Medium	Long	Government agencies, Herder associations,, scientific institutions NGOs
	2.1.4. Increase the effectiveness of protected area networks and hunting concessions for argali (including trans boundary), their coverage and interconnectivity. Applicable to: All	High	Long	Government agencies, hunting area managers, international conservation NGOs
	2.1.5. Provide adequate transport, equipment, and training to protected areas and rangers Applicable to: All	Essential	Short	Government agencies, NGOs

2.2. Forage shortages for argali in critical areas and times of year are reduced	2.2.1. Increase energy efficiency and use of alternative fuel by local households to reduce the collection of fuel wood (e.g. teresken). Applicable to: All (in particular Tajikistan for teresken)	Low	Long	Government agencies, Herder and community associations, development cooperation organizations
	2.2.2 Develop and implement temporal and spatial restrictions on livestock grazing to ensure adequate forage for argali during critical seasons. Applicable to: All	High	Medium	Government agencies, Herder associations, hunting area managers, NGOs
2.3. Disturbance and displacement of argali are minimized	2.3.1. Work with local herders to reduce the threat of guard and feral dogs preying on argali lambs. Applicable to: All	Medium	Medium	Government agencies, Herder associations
	2.3.2. Reduce or prevent disturbance at key sites from livestock herding, poaching and hunting, mining, and recreational activities through zoning, compensatory payments and other site management measures. Applicable to: All	Medium	Medium	Government agencies,
2.4. Negative impacts of mining and infrastructure development are minimized and mitigated	2.4.1. Ensure Environmental Impact Assessments / Strategic Environmental Assessments are conducted rigorously and transparently. Applicable to: All	High	Long	Government agencies, IFC, consultancy companies
	2.4.2. Ensure compliance with International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standard 6 to reduce the negative impact on biodiversity of infrastructure developments and apply appropriate suitable mitigation measures. Applicable to: All	High	Long	Government agencies, IFC, consultancy companies

	2.4.3. Improve connectivity by removing barriers between populations and migration corridors, and if removal is not possible, by adjusting infrastructure (e.g. fences) to make it permeable for argali. Applicable to: All	High	Long	Government agencies. , Border agencies, customs agencies, NGOs
2.5. Conservation management and international cooperation especially for trans-boundary populations are maximized	2.5.1. Increase the capacity of protected area and hunting area managers to monitor and sustainably manage argali populations through training. Applicable to: All	High	Medium	Government agencies, scientific institutions, INGOs
	2.5.2. Engage international agencies that provide common platforms for knowledge sharing and best practices. Applicable to: All	Medium	Long	INGOs, Development cooperation organizations
	2.5.3. Facilitate transboundary activities including information exchange on trade and use, joint law enforcement and anti-poaching activities. penetration of border fences, transboundary monitoring & research, communication and other actions related to wildlife diseases and transboundary protected areas. Applicable to: 1-19	Medium	Medium	Government agencies, INGOs, CMS. TRAFFIC
	2.5.4. Establish data sharing protocols and regularly submit information to the Action Plan coordinator. Applicable to: All	Medium	Medium	Argali WG
Objective 3: To fill knowledge and information gaps				
Result	Action	Priority	Time scale	Organisations responsible
3.1. Sufficient information on argali status, trends, ecology and	3.1.1. Review different census methods, and methodologies for reliable population monitoring of argali. Applicable to: All	High	Medium	Argali WG, IUCN SSC Caprinae SG, Universities, scientific institutions

management is available to all stakeholders	3.1.2. Develop a best-practice manual for argali monitoring using standardised techniques and promote its use in all Range States. Applicable to: All	High	Medium	Argali WG, IUCN SSC Caprinae SG, Universities, scientific institutions
	3.1.3. Implement robust monitoring programs for all argali populations. Applicable to: All	High	Medium	Argali WG, IUCN SSC Caprinae SG, Universities, scientific institutions
	3.1.4. Monitor and study argali and its habitat to improve management. Applicable to: All	High	Long	Universities, protected areas, research organizations, government agencies, scientific institutions
	3.1.5. Assess the root causes and impact of natural and human induced threats to argali populations and the key drivers of population dynamics. Applicable to: All	High	Long	Universities, protected areas, research organizations, government agencies, scientific institutions
	3.1.6. Determine national capacity needs, in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities. Applicable to: All	Medium	Long	Government agencies, INGOs
	3.1.7. Establish a group of management and monitoring experts from different countries and stakeholder groups to inform sound management and steer Action Plan implementation. Applicable to: All	High	On-going	Argali WG, CMS
	3.1.8. Organize training, workshops and joint monitoring missions for management staff and scientists as well as local people. Applicable to: All	Medium	Medium	Government agencies, INGOs

	3.1.9. Compile a shared data pool with available information on argali ecology and harvest indicating major knowledge gaps and research needs in different languages. Applicable to: All	Medium	Medium	Argali WG
	3.1.10. Carry out a thorough genetic analysis to clarify the taxonomy of argali. Applicable to: All	Medium	Medium	Universities, scientific institutions
Objective 4: To ensure effective implementation of the action plan				
Result	Action	Priority	Time scale	Organisations responsible
4.1. An implementation mechanism is established	4.1.1. Develop National Action Plans for argali and integrate these into National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans. Applicable to: All	High	Short	Government agencies, scientific institutions
	4.1.2. Conduct periodic meetings of Range States to share experiences, evaluate success and adapt management plans accordingly. Applicable to: All	Low	Long	CMS, Argali WG
	4.1.3. Establish a dedicated argali page using the CMS website and a mailing list to facilitate information sharing and coordination of joint activities. Applicable to: All	High	Short	Argali WG, GIZ CMS
	4.1.4. Designate national lead agency and argali contact points responsible for coordinating argali conservation and management policy and implementation of the action plan in each Range State. Applicable to: All	Essential	On-going / Completed	Government agencies, CMS

4.1.5. Identify a suitable mechanism for the coordination and revision of the Action Plan implementation activities including developing terms of reference for the argali working group. Applicable to: All	Essential	On-going	CMS, Argali WG, Range States, NGOs
4.1.6. Establish a formal cooperation agreement or Memorandum of Understanding on argali among Range States. Applicable to: All	High	On-going	CMS, Range States
4.1.7. Submit Range State monitoring data every two years for publication on the CMS argali web page. Applicable to: All	Medium	Medium	Argali WG, CMS
4.1.8. Secure funding for sustainable financing of Action Plan activities. Applicable to: All	Essential	Long	Government agencies, CMS, NGOs
4.1.9. Review and adapt or revise the action plan at regular intervals. Applicable to: All	Essential	Medium	Government agencies, CMS, NGOs