

**THIRD RANGE STATE MEETING OF THE CMS
CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE (CAMI)**

24 – 26 June 2025, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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**PROPOSED SELECTION PROCEDURE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SPECIES
FOCAL POINTS OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

To support the provision of technical expertise in line with Resolution 11.24 (Rev. COP13), Programme of Work Activity 29.4, this document proposes a selection procedure for identifying primary and secondary Species Focal Points under the Central Asian Mammals Initiative for those species where such focal points are currently lacking. It also presents a draft of the updated Terms of Reference for the Species Focal Points.

Action requested:

Review and endorse the selection procedure and Terms of Reference for CAMI Species Focal Points.

PROPOSED SELECTION PROCEDURE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SPECIES FOCAL POINTS OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE

Background

The Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) including its Programme of Work was adopted by the CMS Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting (COP11) through Resolution 11.24. Since then, the Programme of Work was updated for the period 2020-2026 at the 2nd CAMI Range States Meeting and adopted by COP13 through Resolution 11.24 (Rev.COP13).

The Initiative currently includes fifteen CMS-listed species: Argali Sheep (*Ovis ammon*); Asiatic Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*); Asiatic Wild Ass / Khulan (*Equus hemionus*); Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus yarkandensis*); Gobi Bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*); Goitered Gazelle/Jeyran (*Gazella subgutturosa*); Kiang (*Equus kiang*); Mongolian Gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*); Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*); Przewalski's Horse/Takhi (*Equus ferus przewalskii*); Saiga Antelope (*Saiga spp.*); Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*); Urial (*Ovis vignei*); Wild Camel (*Camelus bactrianus*); Wild Yak (*Bos grunniens*).

The current Range States¹ are: AFGHANISTAN, Bhutan, China, INDIA, the Islamic Republic of IRAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, MONGOLIA, Nepal, PAKISTAN, the Russian Federation, TAJIKISTAN, TUKMENISTAN and UZBEKISTAN.

In 2024, CMS COP14 listed two further species on CMS Appendix II and recommended that CAMI Range States consider including them in the updated Work Programme for CAMI (hereunder CAMI WP is used to refer to the updated Work Programme): Pallas' Cat (*Felis manul*) and the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*).

As a standard practice, the CMS Secretariat relies on the expertise of the CMS Scientific Council members and IUCN Species Survival Commission's Specialist Groups (SSC SGs) to develop technical recommendations and to advise the Secretariat, CMS Parties, and non-Party Range States on species' conservation and management issues. In addition, through Resolution 11.24 on CAMI, Activity 4.1.2, CMS COP11 mandated the Secretariat to: *Identify and nominate species focal points [for CAMI] (and in the process review suitable platforms such as Snow Leopard Network, IUCN Specialist Groups), and publish on CMS website*. In response, a group of advising experts, known as CAMI Species Focal Points (SFPs) was established under CAMI. These experts have committed to providing their expertise upon request to the CMS Secretariat and CAMI Range States, in accordance with the following [Terms of Reference](#) developed in 2016. The current list of [CAMI SFPs](#) is available on the CAMI website. In line with Activity 29.4 of the [CAMI Programme of Work 2020-2026](#), the Secretariat aims to *confirm and amend the Species Focal Point list* at the Third Meeting of Range States to CAMI in order to ensure that the list of focal points remains up to date, is endorsed by Range States and includes at least one and up to two SFPs for each CAMI species.

In the absence of previously defined criteria to guide the selection of SFPs, the Secretariat proposes a procedure for their nomination, along with revised Terms of Reference (ToRs), with the aim of ensuring the provision of adequate expertise and enhancing the transparency of the selection process.

¹ CMS Parties in capital letters.

Draft Selection Procedure and Terms of Reference for Species Focal Points for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative 2026-2032

Objective: To effectively support the implementation of the Work Programme for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (2026–2032) (CAMI WP) through transparent and timely provision of adequate technical expertise to Range States and the CMS Secretariat.

Proposed Selection Procedure for the Species Focal Points of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative²:

1. Upon the endorsement of the selection procedure and ToRs for Species Focal Points (SFPs) by CAMI Range States at their Third Meeting and the adoption of the CAMI WP 2026-2032 by CMS COP15, the CMS Secretariat will issue a call for the expression of interest for experts wishing to become a CAMI SFP through the CAMI platforms and partners, while Range States will be asked to share the call among their national and regional partners.
2. The expression of interest should include the applicant's CV, including affiliations with any IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Groups (SSC SGs) or membership in other national or international scientific institutions, a list of peer-reviewed publications of relevance to the conservation and management of the species and a motivation statement of up to 250 words.
3. The CMS Secretariat will review the expressions of interest received and will pre-select one main SFP (and one alternate SFP, if available) for each species, based on the following criteria: 1) active scientific research and/or monitoring activities for the target species; 2) membership in relevant IUCN SSC SG; 3) membership in a national or international scientific institution; 4) experience and current involvement in conservation activities in the region, particularly in the country/ies where the most important populations of the species occur; 5) experience with raising funds for research and conservation in the target country/ies; 6a) Fluency in English; 6b) Fluency in languages spoken in most important Range State(s) is an advantage; 7) Gender and geographical balance will be taken into account, where several equally qualified candidates are available.
4. The Secretariat will present the list of pre-selected candidates to Range States for their comments and decision and then inform the selected candidates as well as publish the list with contact details on the CAMI Website.
5. If no expression of interest for a species is received or if a selected SFP steps down from the position or is unresponsive for a prolonged period of time, the CMS Secretariat will issue another call for expression of interest for that position.

² Only SFPs for species which do not currently have an SFP will be newly appointed in 2025. After this, SFPs should be confirmed at each Range State meeting. If an SFP resigns or becomes inactive during the intersessional period, they will be replaced using the same selection procedure as described above as soon as possible.

Draft Terms of Reference for the Species Focal Points of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative 2026-2032:

In close cooperation with the CMS Secretariat

1. Maintain a robust network among scientists working on the species' conservation and management, other SFPs, relevant IUCN SSC SG members and practitioners in Range States and beyond to assess the current conservation status of the target species' populations, identify action needs and provide expert guidance to Range States and the Secretariat on both species-specific and shared conservation and management challenges across CAMI species.
2. Participate in calls or meetings organized by the Secretariat (at most once per year) to update Range States and other stakeholders on priority conservation needs and current activities.
3. Where two SFPs exist for one species, the Secretariat can only cover the costs of participation of one of them, should any such costs arise; furthermore, the participation of one of the SFPs in calls or meetings will suffice, while both SFPs are expected to contribute and coordinate their activities, provision of advice and other technical input.
4. In cooperation with relevant IUCN SSC SGs and other professional networks compile information across Range States on the conservation status of the species and threats in preparation for technical meetings using forms provided by the Secretariat (at most once in three years).
5. Provide technical knowledge to fundraise and/or support fundraising efforts of other stakeholders for the implementation of conservation measures contained in the CAMI WP in close cooperation with the Range States.
6. Provide input to the development of the CAMI reporting templates, maps, and other technical documents in cooperation with technical support organizations, if requested by the Secretariat in preparation of CAMI meetings (once in three years).
7. Inform the Secretariat and advise on identified urgent action needs, if necessary.
8. Cooperate with technical support organizations on awareness-raising and capacity-building activities necessary for the implementation of the CAMI WP.
9. If no longer actively involved in research and conservation activities in the species' Range States or unable to attend to the tasks outlined above for other reasons, inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.