

**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
ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE CENTRAL ASIAN
MAMMALS INITIATIVE**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

In line with Resolution 11.24 (Rev. COP13), Activity 29.1, the CMS Secretariat proposes the identification of technical support organizations to assist with the implementation of the CAMI Work Programme in the Range States.

Action requested:

Review and endorse proposed selection procedure and Terms of Reference

PROPOSED SELECTION PROCEDURE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO 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 addition, CMS COP14 listed two species on CMS Appendix II and recommended that CAMI Range States consider including them in the updated Work Programme for CAMI (hereunder CAMI WP): Pallas' Cat (*Felis manul*) and the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*).

CMS Parties established a part-time position to support the Convention's work in Asia within the Secretariat. In light of the initiative's continued growth—reflected in the increasing number of target species and the integration of several species-specific instruments under CAMI—as well as the positive experience gained through collaboration with external organizations to enhance the implementation of CMS mandates, the Secretariat proposes the following. In line with CAMI Programme of Work 2021–2026 Activity 29.1 *Strengthen the staff resources for the coordination of CAMI within and possibly outside of the CMS Secretariat to enable sustainable and long-term coordination services for CAMI*, technical support organizations to assist with the implementation of the CAMI WP in the Range States should be identified. This approach follows the example of technical support organizations—currently the Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA) and the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK)—which support the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.)* (Saiga MOU). To facilitate this process, the Secretariat has drafted an outline of the selection procedure and Terms of Reference (ToRs) for supporting organizations, to be reviewed and approved by the CAMI Range States.

¹ CMS Parties in capital letters.

Proposed selection procedure

Following the adoption of the ToRs by the Range States, the CMS Secretariat will announce a call for expression of interest to support the implementation of the CAMI WP through the CAMI contact list and partner organizations, while Range States will be asked to share the call among their national and regional partners.

The CMS Secretariat will submit the expressions of interests made by organization/-s together with its own recommendations on potentially suitable organizations to the Range States for their consideration and decision. The expression of interest should contain a motivation statement of up to 300 words and a description of the organization's experience in fulfilling tasks similar to those outlined in the ToRs.

Draft Terms of Reference for supporting the implementation of the Work Programme for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (2026-2031)

Objective

To effectively support the implementation of the Work Programme for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (2026-2031) (hereunder CAMI WP) by Range States and the CMS Secretariat.

Activities

In close consultation with the CMS Secretariat:

1. Develop a robust monitoring framework to assess the effectiveness of implemented conservation measures of the CAMI WP and develop recommendations for their enhancement, as necessary.
2. In cooperation with SFPs, facilitate communication and knowledge sharing among focal points of different biodiversity-related conventions in Range States, among Range States and international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), between stakeholders from different sectors, such as environment agencies, development agencies, infrastructure planners, land use planners, agriculture agencies, border security agencies and others to enhance implementation of CAMI WP.
3. 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.
4. Support Range States in integrating the CAMI WP into national and regional policy frameworks and related funding mechanisms, where possible.
5. Provide technical support to the CMS Secretariat in preparation of technical documentation for CAMI meetings, such as a midterm meeting of Range States and the fourth Meeting of Range States to CAMI. Specifically, draft a reporting form for range states and other organizations wishing to report on CAMI WP implementation, coordinate the collection and support the analysis of CAMI WP implementation reports for the preparation of the Overview Report.
6. Lead preparation of the CAMI Newsletter in cooperation with the CMS Secretariat in English and Russian languages.
7. Create brochures, guides, and online resources about the importance of the conservation of CAMI species and priority conservation units identified in the CAMI WP, related challenges and best practices tailored for various audiences.

8. Raise awareness through outreach events and using materials listed above.
9. Support capacity-building at the local level, necessary for the implementation of CAMI WP e.g., through the organization of regional workshops on best practices for species conservation.

The organizations selected shall work in English and if possible Russian languages and report annually to the Secretariat about the support provided.