

## **The Saiga Networking event- an invitation to participate**

Date - 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Time - 2pm-6pm

Location – Avantgarde Room, Savitsky Plaza

### **Purpose of the event**

***Cop 14 represents a significant opportunity to show a diverse audience of academics, conservation practitioners, funders and legislators the breadth and scope of the saiga conservation efforts that are taking place today.***

Saiga Conservation Alliance, supported by the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative will be hosting a Saiga Networking Event alongside CoP 14 to facilitate that engagement.

We are inviting everybody who works on a project linked to the conservation of saiga to take up the opportunity to promote your work at this event. This way we hope to showcase not only the diversity of conservation efforts that have led to the much-publicised increase in saiga numbers but also the complexity of the saiga story and the need for ongoing work across multiple contexts.

The Saiga Networking Event will also be a rare opportunity for saiga conservationists from across the world to come together and share ideas and visions for the future with each other and we see this internal networking within the world of saiga conservation as a key aspect of the event.

### **Structure of the event**

At the Saiga Networking event those representing a saiga conservation project or research program will have a table where they will be able to engage audience members in informal conversation and to describe their work and its objectives. Where feasible we will aim to group projects from similar geographic areas or with similar themes within areas of the room.

The size of project is not a barrier to participation. Some research programs represented will be the work of a single student. Others projects will be landscape scale programs with multimillion pound budgets. All are welcome and strongly encouraged to participate.

We would also like to include projects that have recently concluded who would like to share their findings, achievements and outputs

### **Preparing materials for the event**

We do not anticipate that projects will spend a significant time preparing materials for this event. If you have pre-prepared materials such as leaflets, posters or a slideshow on a laptop screen that you would like to display on your table then that will be a wonderful way of letting the audience members know which geographic area you are part of and the focus of your work. If you would like materials to be printed in Uzbekistan for display at the Saiga Networking Event then this is something we help to facilitate provided we receive the printed materials before DATE.

(participants in the networking event will need to meet their own printing costs)

## **Timeline of the event**

2pm- Event opens – We will invite the audience from the CoP Side event “Recognising and Building on the Success of Transboundary Cooperation on the Recovery of Saiga Antelope in Central Asia”, which concludes at 13:30, to join the networking event to learn more about the bigger picture of Saiga conservation.

3pm - The Altyn Dala Initiative will give a short presentation of their work in Kazakhstan.

3:15 - Coffee and light refreshments

3:30 Onwards - We are anticipating that the general audience from the CoP Attendees will begin to leave after this point. At this point the focus of the event will change. The emphasis will now be on allowing saiga researchers and conservation practitioners the chance to, renew friendships and meet new people and projects whose work they may be unfamiliar with. This meeting will represent a rare opportunity for face-to-face meetings between projects from as far east as Japan and as far west as Russia. We encourage you all to make the most of this opportunity for networking and knowledge exchange as well as discussing the future of saiga conservation.

5pm onwards:- Whilst we have the room until 6pm and are welcome to stay for this long several individuals have suggested the option of going for a meal to continue our discussions.

If you would be interested in the possibility of joining us for a meal then please indicate this when expressing your interest in having a table at the Saiga Networking Event using the link below.

(participants will need to meet their own cost of the evening meal).

**How to participate in the event:** [RSVP](#)

### **I will not be attending Cop 14, Can my project still be represented**

Yes - If you have colleagues attending CMS that you would like to represent your work than that is possible. Alternatively, if you would like to have a poster that highlights your work and its objectives or achievements then this is something we would encourage you to discuss with us.