Saiga Antelope population of the Pre-Caspian Grasslands
Saiga Antelope Range

LEGEND
- Saiga distribution range in 1980 - 1990's
- Saiga distribution range in last decade
- Yellow dots represent rare sightings of Saiga recorded outside the main distribution range

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Dynamics of the Saiga population

For 50 years, the number has decreased more than 100 times to 6,000 animals
Poaching is being driven by the demand for their horns in South-Eastern Asian countries where they are used in Traditional Chinese Medicine. Also, poachers kill Saiga for the meat.

Overgrazing has resulted in the degradation of the carrying capacity of the Saiga Antelope habitats and increased competition with livestock for water sources. Desertification.
What we are doing to restore Saiga Antelope population

- 3 water wells were restored to improve the adaptability of Saiga Antelope and other species to aridization

- development of the Saiga census with UAVs methodology is close to completion

- anti-poaching capacity of protected areas within the Saiga range has been successfully increased

- massive public awareness campaign has been started this year
Next steps

1. Assessment of Saiga Antelope habitat outside its current range.

2. Development of regulations establishing parameters for pasture grazing to halt overgrazing.

3. Elaboration and implementation of a pilot project aimed to restore natural plant species assemblage to stop further desertification.
Thank you for your attention!