

Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative — Saiga Antelope & Steppe Recovery (Kazakhstan)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Kazakhstan

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

ACBK and partners (Fauna & Flora, Frankfurt Zoological Society, RSPB) worked with Kazakhstan's government to expand state reserves and curb poaching, helping saiga antelope rebound from ~21,000 in 2003 to ~4.6 million by 2026 — though the boom now drives crop-conflict culls.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	3/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	0/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan \(ACBK\), with Fauna & Flora, Frankfurt Zoological Society, RSPB and the Government of Kazakhstan](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[Astana Times: Kazakhstan's saiga population surpasses 4.6 million](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[Frankfurt Zoological Society: Saigas Bounce Back](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[WCS Newsroom: IUCN Red List reclassification](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[CDC Emerging Infectious Diseases: 2015 mass die-off](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[Global Voices: saiga population growth and cull controversy](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

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