**SAIGA**

**FACTFILE**
- **Number Living in the Wild:** Around 18,000 adults
- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered
- **Scientific Name:** Saiga tatarica
- **Weight:** 20–50 kg
- **Life Span:** Usually between 6–10 years in the wild
- **Habitat:** Grasslands, savannas, scrublands and deserts
- **Diet:** Herbivore

**Where Do They Live?**
Saigas are a type of antelope that are found in south-eastern parts of Europe. Numbers of Saigas in Europe have slowly decreased as they have spread further east into many parts of Asia.

**Key**
- Oceans and Seas
- Land
- Saiga Habitats

---

**Why Are They in Danger?**
The number of saigas has declined in the last 20 years because of illegal hunting. Male saigas are hunted for their valuable horns. They are sold on to be used in traditional Chinese medicine as they are thought to help cure many different illnesses. This reason, combined with habitat loss, has caused the number of saigas to decrease by around one million in the last 40 years.

---

**HOW ARE THEY BEING PROTECTED?**
The **trade** of saiga horns, and the hunting of saigas, is illegal in many of their habitats. Despite this, illegal hunting is still extremely common. If illegal hunting is to be stopped, countries need to work together to **enforce** the law and increase the level of protection saigas currently have. Saiga Conservation Alliance, a conservation organisation, is working with the police to protect saigas from poachers as part of an international conservation plan.