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Dear Academician Rozhnov,

I am writing on behalf of the Saiga Conservation Alliance, San Diego Zoo and the IUCN Antelope Specialist Group, to express our deep gratitude to you personally, and to the staff of the Institute of Ecology and Evolution, for hosting our workshop on captive breeding of the saiga antelope on 28th and 29th August.

The meeting was a great success, with a lot of interesting information exchanged, and new collaborations formed. The workshop report will be produced soon and will no doubt be a very useful resource for future research and conservation efforts in this field. The Institute was an excellent venue for these discussions, with high quality meeting space. The staff were very helpful indeed, and we were made to feel extremely welcome.

We also benefited greatly from the presence of specialists from the Institute at our meeting, who contributed their deep scientific knowledge of the topic. We were particularly excited to hear about the work of Dr Marina Kholodova, whose new project on saiga genetics will be extremely useful for future captive breeding and reintroduction efforts of this critically endangered species.

I was particularly excited that Dr Lushchekina was able to present to the meeting her and co-authors' new book on the breeding of saiga antelopes in captivity. This is a very valuable contribution to the literature which fills an important gap in our knowledge, and is an excellent synthesis of decades of experience on captive breeding in Russia and neighbouring countries. The participants of the meeting were very excited to receive copies of this book. We are now discussing with some of our participants from European and American zoos the possibility for them to financially support the translation of the book and its publication in English. I hope that these discussions will come to fruition.

Once again, many thanks to you for allowing us to hold our meeting at the Institute of Ecology and Evolution, and also to Drs Anna Lushchekina, Valery Neronov and Anna Yachmennikova for their very hard work in organising the meeting and ensuring it was successful.

With very best wishes, yours sincerely,

Professor E.J. Milner-Gulland
Chair, Saiga Conservation Alliance