



Saiga (*Saiga tatarica*)

Size: Head and body length, 108 - 146 cm; shoulder height, 57 - 79 cm; tail, 6 - 12 cm **Weight:** Males, approx. 41 kg; females, approx. 28 kg **Habitat:** Prefers open dry steppe grassland and semi-desert areas

Surviving number: Estimated at 100,000 - 110,000



Photographed by Igor Shpilenok

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Time traveler. The saiga is a relict species from the last ice age, evolutionarily distinct from other animals. Its unique nature is as plain as the nose on its face, which is thought to filter dust and warm the frigid air in the winter. This nomad has roamed the steppes for millennia, living in large herds when conditions allow. Thanks to a high birthrate, it has been able to bounce back following particularly brutal winters.

But poaching—for meat and for the males' amber horns—has greatly intensified, recently decimating populations by 90%. Meanwhile, disease also threatens. Could the saiga's time be up?

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