Saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*) in the environmental history of the Eurasian steppe and desert

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Abstract

This paper locates the saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*) in the environmental history of the Eurasian steppe and desert. The paper explains how saigas are well adapted to the steppe and deserts they evolved in. It goes on to analyze the interaction between saigas and the human populations with whom they share these environments both before and after the colonization of the regions by the Russian Empire and Soviet Union. A final section considers human efforts to protect saigas as they have become an endangered species.

Bio

David Moon is a specialist on the environmental history of Russia and Eurasia in a transnational perspective. He has spent many years researching the history of the Eurasian steppe.

His most recent books are:

David Moon, Nicholas B. Breyfogle and Alexandra Bekasova, eds, Place and Nature: Essays in Russian Environmental History (White Horse Press, 2021)

David Moon, The American Steppes: The Unexpected Russian Roots of Great Plains Agriculture, 1870s-1930s (Cambridge University Press, 2020)

He is honorary professor at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, emeritus professor at the University of York, UK, and was visiting professor at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2018-2020.

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