

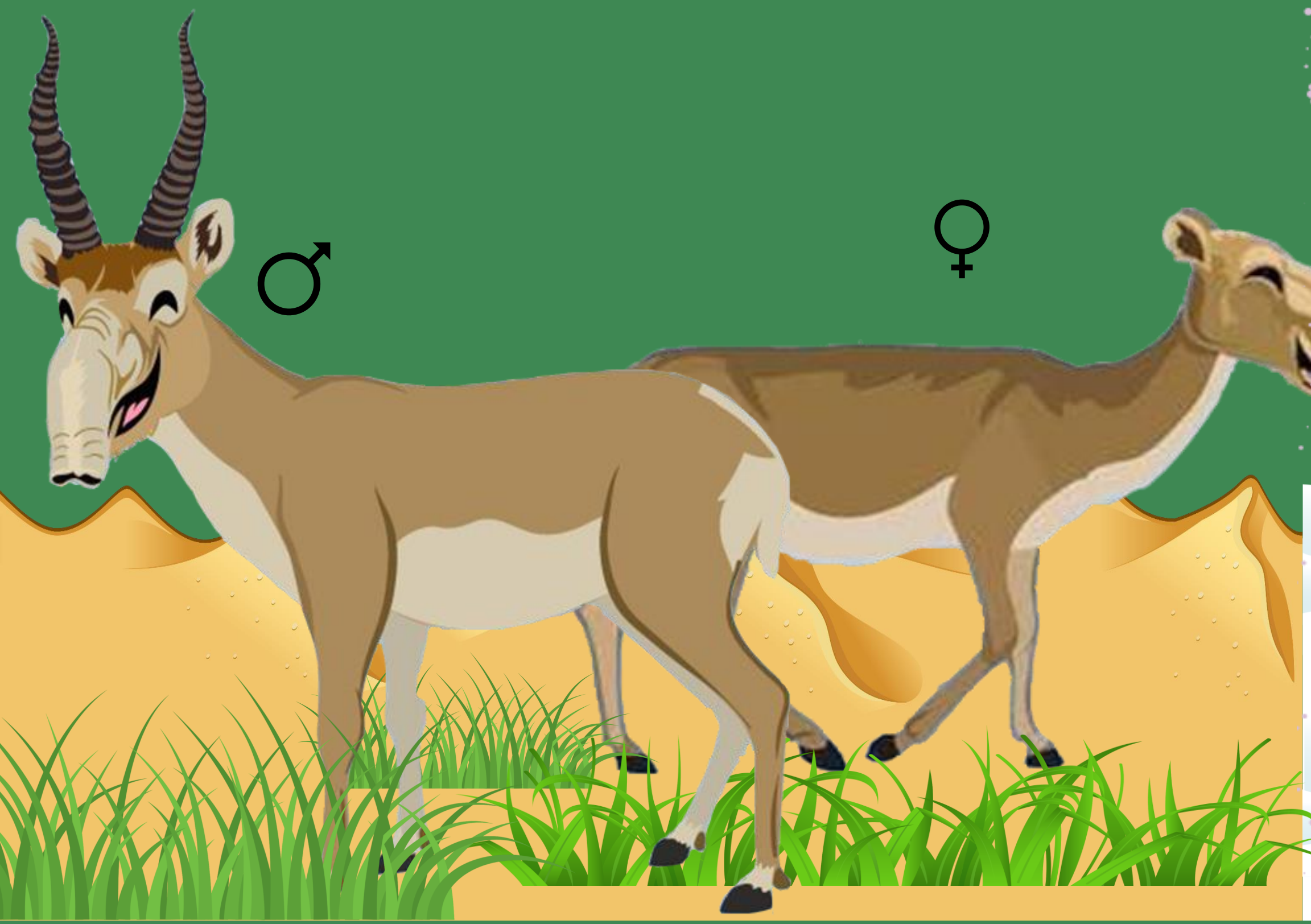
SAIGA ANTELOPE (*SAIGA TATARICA*)

Order: Artiodactyla

Suborder: Ruminantia

Family: Bovidae

Subfamily: Caprinae



Summer Pelage



Winter Pelage



Obligate Herbivores

100 different plant species such as grasses, forbes, sagebrush and steppe lichens



Desert steppe ecosystems of Central Asia



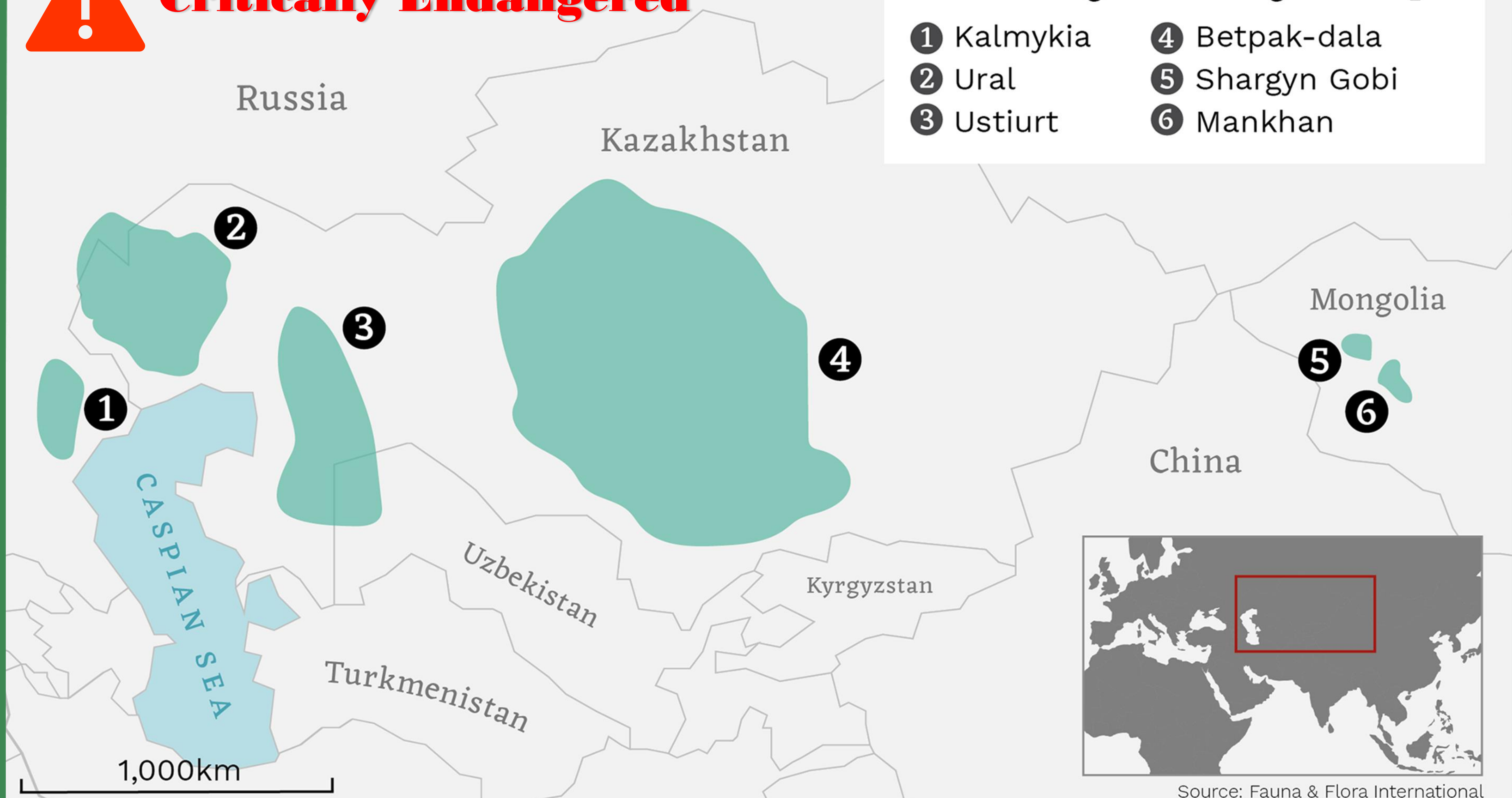
Cursorial locomotion with Unguligrade foot posture; Saiga are nomadic herding animals and migrate between summer and winter ranges, however due to habitat fragmentation some populations no longer migrate

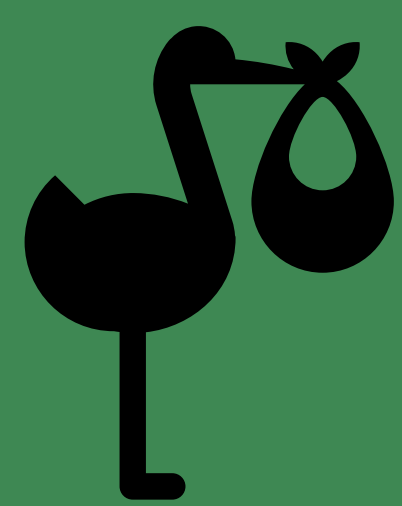


Critically Endangered

Habitat range of the saiga antelope

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1 Kalmykia | 4 Betpak-dala |
| 2 Ural | 5 Shargyn Gobi |
| 3 Ustiurt | 6 Mankhan |

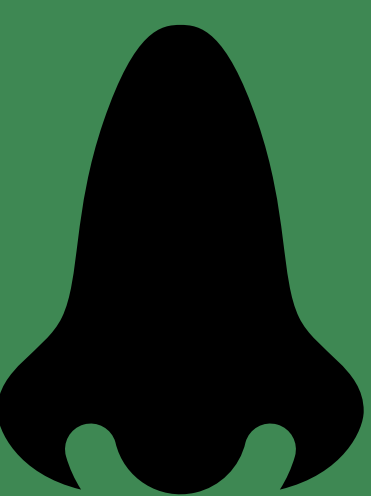




Polygynous; High Fecundity

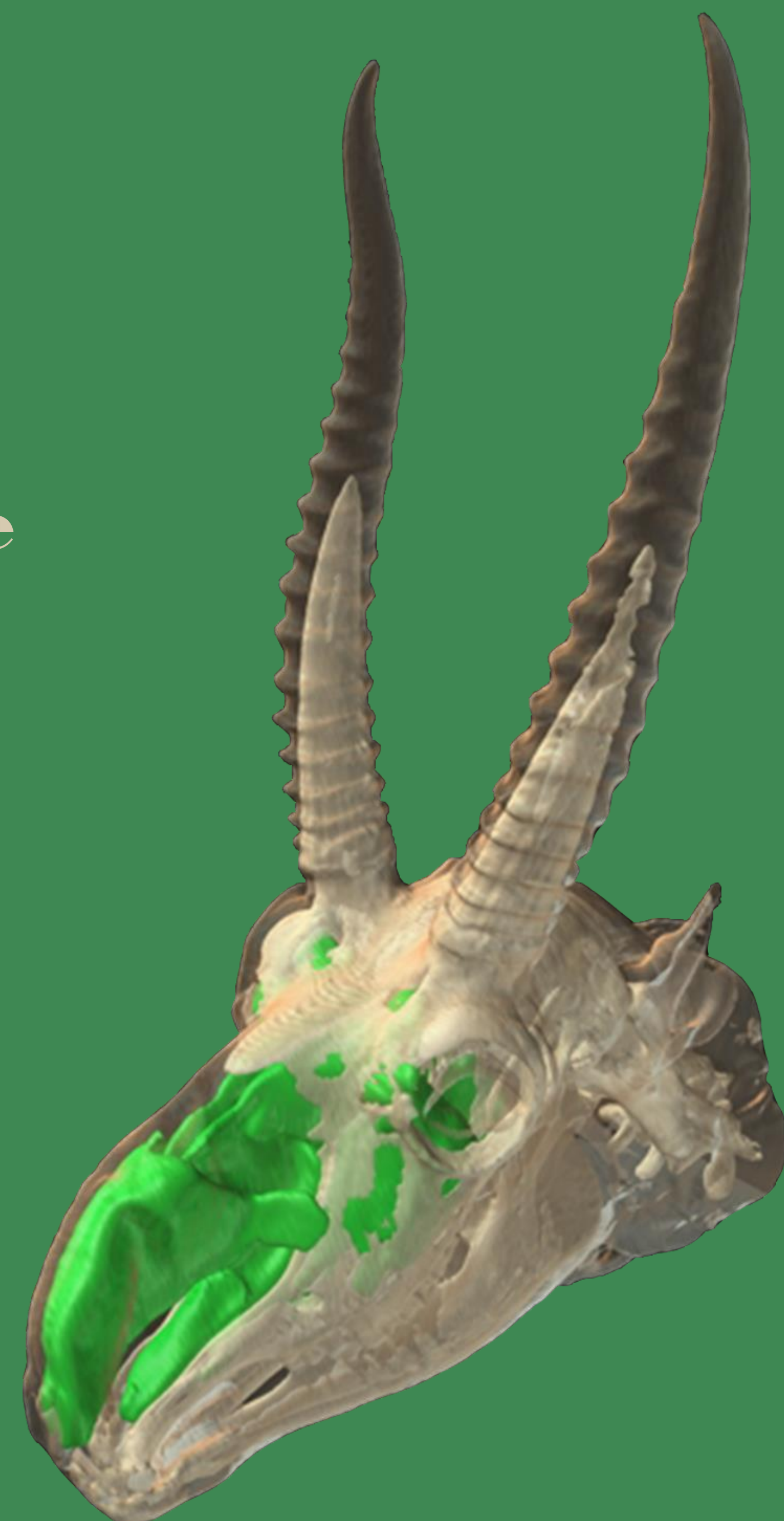
Often produce twins and even triplets

Sex: males are larger than females and are the only sex that possess horns, sex ratios are skewed towards females



The Saiga's extraordinary mobile proboscis is likely the adaptation to extremely dusty conditions and for warming frigid winter temperatures; the bones that make up the rostrum are all greatly reduced

Rutting male saigas proboscises swell and during the rut they are known to produce a loud nasal roar; they also use their proboscis as a mechanism for pheromone detection



Conservation issues

Habitat fragmentation, poaching/over harvest, disease/winter die offs and illegal horn trade for traditional medicines

