

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR
Philippe Chardonnet
Independent consultant, France



CO-CHAIR
David Mallon
Division of Biology and Conservation Ecology, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR
David Mallon
Division of Biology and Conservation Ecology, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
90

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist group
Twitter: @AntelopeSG, #AntelopeSG

Mission statement

The mission of the Antelope Specialist Group (ASG) is to promote the conservation of the world's antelope diversity and to contribute to the mission of SSC.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The status of antelopes is improved, declines are halted, and extinctions prevented.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Maintain status updates on all antelope taxa.

T-003 Complete all Red List reassessments for antelopes, as required.

T-004 Complete Green Status assessments for threatened species.

PLAN

T-005 Develop the Global Antelope Strategy.

T-006 Develop and support action plans for key species.

T-007 Enhance the link between Red List assessments and planning.

T-008 Revise the Intensive Genetic Manipulation Policy.

T-009 Produce policy statements as appropriate.

ACT

T-016 Support the preparation of grant proposals.

T-018 Liaise with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for the PPR GEP (Global Eradication Campaign of "Peste des Petits Ruminants").

T-019 Support governments and others on field action for antelopes.

NETWORK

T-010 Liaise annually with CITES and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

T-011 Provide advice to the SSC Chair and IUCN.

T-014 Renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) on genetics and planning.

T-015 Increase the regional and gender diversity of ASG members.

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Publish at least eight newsletters (two per year) and special issues.

T-012 Relaunch website.

T-013 Maintain Facebook and Twitter accounts.

T-017 Produce book on African Buffalo.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-002 (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 21

Result description: Twenty-one (21) data sheets were updated: Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*), Scimitar-horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah*), Dama Gazelle (*Nanger dama*), Beisa Oryx (*Oryx beisa*), Silver Dikdik (*Madoqua piacentinii*), Dibatag (*Ammodorcas clarkei*), Lesser Kudu (*Tragelaphus imberbis*), Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*), Gerenuk (*Litocranius walleri*), Saiga (*Saiga tatarica*), Mongolian Saiga (*Saiga tatarica mongolica*), Peninsular Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana peninsularis*), Sonoran Pronghorn



© Jaime Dias/Wings for Conservation

Critically Endangered Dama Gazelles (*Nanger dama*) in Ouadi Rime Ouadi Achim Wildlife Reserve, Chad, December 2021
Photo: Jaime Dias - Wings for Conservation

(*Antilocapra americana sonoriensis*), White-bellied Duiker (*Cephalophus leucogaster*), Soemmerring's Gazelle (*Nanger soemmerringii*), White-eared Kob (*Kobus kob leucotis*), Mongalla Gazelle (*Eudorcas albonotata*), Heuglin's Gazelle (*Eudorcas tilonura*), Tora Hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus tora*), Puku (*Kobus vardonii*), Hirola (*Beatragus hunteri*).

T-003 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The Peninsular Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana peninsularis*) assessment was completed and published. Five more assessments were started, and draft IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) sheets created.

PLAN

Planning

T-006 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 5

Result description: The Mongolian Saiga National Action Plan was completed; the process was facilitated by David Mallon, and an online planning workshop held in

September 2021. The CMS Saiga MoU work plan 2021–2026 was revised and approved at the Fourth Meeting of the Signatories to the Saiga MOU (CMS MOS4), in September 2021. For the CMS Addax Roadmap, funding was received from the Government of Germany and work began on development of the roadmap (target date for completion is 31 December 2022). The process for the Tunisia Addax National Action Plan was initiated by DGF (government agency), Marwell Wildlife and ASG. For the Dama Gazelle Conservation Strategy, the 2.5-year review was facilitated by ASG.

T-007 (KSR 8)

Number of Red List assessments directly linked to planning: 0

Result description: Work continued to finalise the methodologies to be used for linking assessments to planning.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-016 (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 3

Result description: Support letters were sent to National Geographic for Hirola. Follow up took place in 2021 for projects

launched thanks to support letters sent in 2020 for Addax in Morocco and Korrigum (*Damaliscus lunatus korrigum*) in W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (WAP complex).

T-019 (KSR 10)

Number of documents, consultations, advice provided in support of antelope conservation action: 10

Result description: We liaised with the Government of Niger on Addax conservation; liaised with the Government of Morocco on Addax conservation; carried out a consultation with African parks on translocations of antelopes in West and Central Africa; liaised with Mount Kenya Game Conservancy on Mountain Bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*) reintroduction; supported the West African Sitatunga Working Group; worked with Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF), Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI), African Parks, Edinburgh University and CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) on reintroductions of Oryx and Addax to Chad; facilitated a working group on captive breeding strategy for Dama Gazelle in Chad (with

EAD, RZSS, SCF, Zoological Society of London, Fossil Rim); liaised with Israel National Parks Authority on the genetics and status of Acacia Gazelle (regarded by some as a separate subspecies of the Arabian Gazelle, *Gazella arabica*); carried out a consultation with Northern Rangelands Trust on Beisa Oryx project; and worked with the FAO locust aerial survey in Horn of Africa on sightings and records of rare antelopes.

Technical advice

T-018 (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: As member of the Wildlife Working Group of the PPR GREN, Phillipe Chardonnet attended the virtual 4th meeting of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN IV) organised by OIE and FAO (December 2021).

NETWORK

Agreements

T-014 (KSR 3)

MoU signed: 1

Result description: Text revised and agreed by both parties.



Vulnerable Eastern Giant Eland (*Tragelaphus derbianus gigas*), adult male, Northern Cameroon
Photo: Faro Lobeke Conservation Cameroon

Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) at Blackbuck National Park, Velavadar, India
Photo: David Mallon



Membership

T-015 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 7

Result description: We invited new members to ASG, including women (3) and regional members (4), and we are working to add more in early 2022.

Synergy

T-010 (KSR 3)

Number of collaborations and cooperation: 3

Result description: David Mallon attended the virtual 4th Meeting of Range States, CMS Saiga MoU (September 2021). David Mallon and Phillipe Chardonnet collaborated on several occasions with CMS Secretariat on Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action and worked with CMS Secretariat on a major funding proposal for conservation of Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*).

T-011 (KSR 3)

Provide technical advice as required: ongoing

Result description: Phillipe Chardonnet attended in person the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 in Marseille, developed and got accepted Motion 102 on biodiversity and livestock expansion, and organised an event to promote Motion 102.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-001 (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 2

Result description: *Gnusletter* vol. 38: 1 and 2 published.

T-013 (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 8

Result description: Twitter posts and reposts were made.

T-017 (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 0

Result description: Three quarters of the book on African Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) are completed with publication expected end of 2022.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the following: Marwell Wildlife for supporting the ASG Programme Office; RZSS for advice on genetic issues; staff in the SSC Chair's Office and Global Species Programme for their support and advice; and all members and others who responded to requests for information or contributed to *Gnusletter*. We also extend our thanks to all those who supported IUCN World Conservation Congress Resolution 102.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 19

Geographic regions: 17 Global, 2 Africa

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 2 (KSR 6)

Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 3 (KSR 10)

Network: 4 (KSR 2, 3)

Communicate: 3 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

