

IUCN SSC South American Camelid Specialist Group



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Twitter: @GrupoGeccs
Website: www.camelid.org

CHAIR

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RED LIST AUTHORITY

COORDINATOR

Pablo Acebes

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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

33

Mission statement

To promote the conservation and sustainable use of (wild) South American Camelids in their area of geographic distribution.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The planning established internally in our Group aims to provide by 2025 an important advancement in the reduction of the threats currently faced by South American camelids. In this sense, we will work to reduce the risk of local extinction of some populations that are currently highly threatened and have a high degree of fragmentation. To this end, we intend to strongly influence public policies, such as the International Convention for the Conservation of the Vicuña and the National Management and Conservation Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. Through the active participation of members, we will work to reduce the conflict between South American camelids and human activities in those populations that currently show signs

of recovery and are abundant. Through the generation of new information, we will begin a process of precise evaluation of the populations on a regional scale for local classification into conservation categories. Through dissemination and communication actions, we will try to give visibility to the threats to vulnerable populations, as well as to the possibility of use of our species. We will continue to support the sustainable use of species for the benefit of local communities, and we will generate actions to confront poaching and illegal trade in order to reduce their impact on natural populations. We are convinced that both conservation initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of the species, combined with communication and education programmes, will have a positive impact on the attitudes of communities throughout the range of South American camelids.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-011 Complete Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) subspecies assessment for the Red List.

PLAN

- T-006** Participate in the development of a management and conservation plan for Vicuñas (*Vicugna vicugna*) in Argentina.
- T-007** Participate in the development of a conservation plan for Guanaco in Perú.
- T-008** Review the National Management Plan for Guanacos in Argentina.
- T-009** Update Animal Welfare Criteria for the Management of South American Wild Camelids, and Protocol of Good Management Practices for Wild Guanacos and Vicuñas.
- T-010** Develop an animal welfare protocol applied to commercial hunting.
- ACT**
- T-003** Elaborate a report about mange disease in Vicuña.
- T-013** Develop a position statement about commercial hunting.
- T-014** Participate in the annual meeting of the Vicuña International Convention.



Vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*)
in Paso San Francisco,
Catamarca, Argentina
Photo: Pablo Carmanchahi

Bachelor group of wild Guanacos
(*Lama guanicoe*) in La Payunia Provincial
Reserve, Mendoza, Argentina
Photo: Julie Maher

T-016 Provide advice to the National Parks Administration of Argentina on the rewilding of wild Guanacos in El Impenetrable National Park, Chaco.

NETWORK

T-004 Update the GECS membership protocol and develop a membership cancellation protocol.

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Publish one GECS Newsletter per year and obtain the GECS Newsletter ISSN.

T-002 Develop a communication strategy for the South American Camelid Specialist Group (GECS, for Grupo Especialista en Camélidos Sudamericanos) and update the GECS website by 2021.

Activities and results 2021

PLAN

Policy

T-008 (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 4

Result description: During 2021, the members of our Group have actively participated in the revision of the National Management Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. To this end, they have participated in four workshops, giving oral presentations and generating written documents that will serve as the basis for the development of a new plan. During the 2022 they will continue with these tasks and will work on the drafting of this plan.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-003 (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: Requested at the last Technical Meeting of the Convenio Internacional para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vicuña in 2018, our Group started in 2021 the report on scientific and technical aspects about sarcoptic mange in Vicuñas. This document gathers and analyses scientific knowledge and management aspects, research priorities and recommendations with the objective of preventing, diagnosing and mitigating the disease. This document arises as an interdisciplinary and international scientific-technical collaboration based on this demand of the Convention. The elaboration of this document will continue in 2022.

Technical advice

T-014 (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: Our Specialist Group is the overseer of the International Vicuña Convention, which is made up of focal representatives from Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador. The GECS is currently collaborating with the Pro Tempore Secretariat and member countries to hold the next Technical Meeting, after three years without being able to do so due to the pandemic. To this end, several GECS members participated in a preparatory meeting for the formal meeting to be carried out in August 2022.

T-016 (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: In 2021, we formed a new working commission, the Rewilding Commission, to deal with specific issues related to this topic in South American camelids. This commission is formed by four members of our Group. During 2021, we

advised the National Parks Administration of Argentina on a project presented by Rewilding Argentina for the introduction of wild Guanacos in El Impenetrable National Park in the province of Chaco.

NETWORK

Membership

T-004 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: During 2021, we formed the new membership committee and updated the admission protocol for new candidates. The committee was formed by four members of the Group and two applications have been evaluated so far.

Acknowledgements

Our group thanks the SSC for the award of an SSC Internal Grant, which was used to redesign and edit our group's newsletter *GECS News* and also to design and put online the group's new website. We also thank KUM Digital (Pablo Perez and Mariana Slemenson), who with great patience and dedication understood and carried out our ideas for the design of the website and newsletter.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 13

Geographic regions: 13 America

Actions during 2021:

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Act: 3 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

