

IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group



2019 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

95

Social networks

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



Mission statement

The mission of ASG is to promote the conservation of the world's antelope diversity and to contribute to the mission of SSC.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we expect: the Antelope Specialist Group's (ASG) global framework for antelope conservation; road maps for all threatened taxa; action plans for key species; updated Red List assessments; advice to IUCN, CITES, CMS, governments and INGOs; support for project proposals; and dissemination of information will collectively have made a significant contribution to stabilising and/or improving the status of antelopes and also to specific targets on the SSC Strategic Plan.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Green List: complete Green List assessments for 93 species.

Red List: (1) maintain regular updates of 93 species' Red List datasheets; (2) complete all (144) Red List reassessments.

Research activities: (1) enter baseline data for all species and subspecies (144) into the Antelope e-database; (2) expand fields of the Antelope e-database.

Plan

Planning: (1) publish the ASG planning guidelines; (2) develop the Global Antelope Strategy; (3) publish action plans for eight key antelope taxa; (4) enhance the link between Red List assessments and species planning.

Policy: (1) revise the Intensive Genetic Manipulation Policy; (2) liaise annually with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); (3) provide advice to the SSC Chair and IUCN; (4) liaise annually with the CITES Animals Committee, Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties, and attend two standing meetings per year for two species, as well as additional events *ad hoc*; (5) liaise with, and provide advice to, national government agencies.

Act

Conservation actions: review Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) sites for antelopes.

Network

Agreements: sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) on genetics and planning.

Membership: increase regional and gender diversity of members of the ASG.

Proposal development and funding: support preparation of grant proposals as requested.

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



Blackbuck herd at Blackbuck National Park,
Velavadar, India
Photo: David Mallon

Communicate

Communication: (1) produce policy statements as appropriate; (2) publish six *Gnusletter* regular issues (2 per year) and special issues; (3) re-launch website; (4) maintain Facebook page with one post per month; (5) create a Twitter account and a blog; (6) publish book project entitled *The African Buffalo: ecology and management*, containing 20 chapters and 100,000 words.

Scientific meetings: co-organise the 3rd and 4th African Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) workshops.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Green List

i. Green List assessments of several species were made as part of the Green Status development process. (KSR #11)

Red List

i. Datasheets of 30 threatened species were updated whenever new information became available. Datasheets on some non-threatened species were also updated on an *ad hoc* basis. (KSR #1)

ii. We are awaiting a decision on whether the next Global Mammal Assessment will be in 2020 or at a later date to complete all (144) taxa Red List assessments. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. ASG is looking for an intern or placement student to expand fields (two fields) of the Antelope e-database.

Plan

Planning

i. The ASG planning guidelines are still in draft form. We plan to complete them in 2020. (KSR #18)

ii. Action Plans: (1) The Saiga (*Saiga tatarica*) work plan under the CMS MoU was updated for 2020–2024 at a workshop in April 2019; (2) the Slender-horned Gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*) roadmap draft was completed in November 2019 in English and French and circulated for comment; (3) the Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*) roadmap was initiated in late 2019; (4) the Dama Gazelle (*Nanger dama*) Conservation Strategy 2019–2028 was published in December 2019 in English and French; (4) we will provide advise on planning of the Peninsular Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana peninsularis*) strategy workshop (planned for February 2020); (5) we commented on the Kenya National Action Plan for Roan Antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*); (6) our collaboration continues with an Ethiopian Government Agency on the development of a national antelope strategy (a workshop is planned in 2020). (KSR #15)

iii. Insufficient work took place to enhance the link between Red List assessments and planning. This is a priority for 2020. (KSR #18)

Policy

i. Recent legal developments in South Africa require a response and will influence the content of version 2 of the Intensive Genetic Manipulation Policy. (KSR #26)

ii. We liaised with CMS on the following activities: (1) Saiga antelope MoU; (2) Central Asian Mammals Initiative (includes five antelope species); (3) Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action (seven antelope species). (KSR #26)

iii. We provided advice to the SSC Chair and IUCN on the following: (1) declassification of Termit and Tin Toumma National Nature Reserve, Niger; (2) SSC draft strategy comments. (KSR #26)

iv. Formal responses to the CITES Secretariat were made as requested on Saiga and Tibetan Antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*). Both species are listed on Appendix 1 and are standing items at the Animals Committee. (KSR #26)

v. Formal meetings were held with four government agencies to discuss the following: (1) Niger: Termit and Tin Toumma National Nature Reserve declassification, conservation of *Addax*; (2) Kenya Wildlife Service: antelope priorities, Hirola (*Beatragus hunteri*) strategy, Mountain Bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*) strategy, Roan Antelope strategy; (3) Ethiopia: antelope priorities and planning; (4) Tanzania: antelope priorities. (KSR #26)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Some further progress was made in 2019 reviewing KBA sites for antelopes, until a placement student left. The target is behind schedule. (KSR #22)

Network

Agreements

i. The MoU with RZSS on genetics and planning runs until the end of 2020. (KSR #29)

Membership

i. New Range state members have been identified and invited.

ii. Gender diversity increased by a small amount. We are still behind the target of 40% by end of 2020.

Proposal development and funding

i. Six grant applications supported to: National Geographic, IUCN Save Our Species, Rufford Small Grants, Fondation Segré. (KSR #19)

Synergy

i. Interactions with FAO and OIE for the Global Eradication Campaign of "Peste des Petits Ruminants" (PPR GEP): (1) P. Chardonnet (ASG Co-Chair) was invited by OIE and FAO to attend a workshop on PPR GEP in wildlife organised in Rome, Italy; (2) P. Chardonnet became a member of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN) Wildlife Working Group under the auspices of OIE and FAO; (3) P. Chardonnet and ASG members Alex Caron and Richard Kock co-authored an article on PPR in wildlife in the journal *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*. (KSR #23)

Communicate

Communication

i. ASG initiated and drafted a motion for the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in collaboration with the Wildlife Health Specialist Group. The motion was submitted by EcoHealth Alliance and 12 other co-sponsors and has been accepted by the WCC: Motion 102 – Strengthening mutual benefits of mobile pastoralism and wildlife in shared landscapes. (KSR #28)

ii. *Gnusletter* issues 36.1 and 36.2 were published in 2019. The *Gnusletter* production team is still based at White Oak Conservation, Florida. (KSR #28)

iii. One Special Issue on African Buffalo has been superseded by a proposed book on African Buffalo. Co-Chair Philippe Chardonnet and three key members of the African Buffalo Interest Group have developed the concept of the book entitled *The African Buffalo: ecology and management*, containing 20 chapters and 100,000 words. This has been accepted in principle by Cambridge University Press. (KSR #28)

iv. An SSC small grant was obtained to fund further development of the website. A web designer has been identified and is working on the update. (KSR #28)

v. We need to establish a schedule for regular posting on the Facebook page. (KSR #28)

vi. The ASG Programme Office takes the lead on issuing tweets regularly using our official Twitter account. (KSR #28)

Scientific meetings

i. Within the context of the 4th African Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) workshop, the concept of the book entitled *The African Buffalo: ecology and management* was generated. (KSR #28)

Blue Bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*)
at Blackbuck National Park, Velavadar, India
Photo: David Mallon



Female Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*)
in W National Park, Niger
Photo: Daniel Cornelis

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	4	
Plan	8	
Act	1	
Network	5	
Communicate	7	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 11, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 28, 29

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-041, WCC-2016-Res-100

KSR: Key Species Result