

# IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group

2020 Report



James Burton

## Chair

James Burton (1)

## Red List Authority Coordinator

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## Location/Affiliation

(1) North of England Zoological Society, Global Wildlife Conservation, Center for Conservation of Tropical Ungulates, UK

(2) Wildlife Alliance, Cambodia

## Number of members

80

## Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group

Instagram: iucn\_wildcattle

Twitter: @IUCN\_WildCattle

Website: [www.asianwildcattle.org/](http://www.asianwildcattle.org/)



## Mission statement

The mission of the Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group (AWCSG) is to promote the long-term conservation of the Asian wild cattle species and their habitats by means of information sharing, identification of conservation priorities and facilitation/delivery of these priority actions through collaborative conservation work.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we will have enhanced the partner network, planning and coordinated action for four wild cattle species. For the Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*), range-wide conservation actions will be defined, agreed amongst stakeholders, and being implemented, following a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop in 2018. The One Plan approach for conserving Anoa (*Bubalus depressicornis* and *B. quarlesi*) and Banteng (*Bos javanicus*) in Indonesia will be implementing two site-based projects, while the ex situ status will have been improved with cooperative breeding efforts in Indonesian zoos. This programme (Action Indonesia Global Species Management Plans) will have built capacity in the national zoo association and set up cooperative breeding programmes for the first time that can be used as a model for other species. The most likely remaining locations of Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) will have been searched, and efforts conducted to capture individuals for a captive breeding programme.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Red List: complete Red List assessments for eight of nine species.

Research activities: (1) produce publications on Anoa and Babirusa (*Babirusa babirusa*, *B. celebensis*, *B. togeanensis*) genetics, Tamaraw, Kouprey (*Bos sauveli*), and hunting in Sulawesi; (2) carry out Tamaraw population monitoring and improved assessment; (3) conduct Banteng monitoring in east Javan park; (4) conduct Anoa and Babirusa monitoring in Sulawesi park; (5) carry out Saola camera trapping study.

### Plan

Planning: (1) hold first planning workshop for Banteng, Anoa and Babirusa Global Species Management Plans (GSMPs); (2) host the Saola working group biennial meeting; (3) participate in the Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) visioning workshop; (4) organise Sabah Banteng conservation planning workshop; (5) complete a GSMP master plan for Anoa, Banteng and Babirusa; (6) contribute to the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) Regional Collection Planning for wild cattle; (7) set up a programme to increase support for Tamaraw conservation.

Policy: sign memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the partners of Action Indonesia GSMPs for Banteng and Anoa, with Indonesian partners, SSC and the Wild Pig Specialist Group.

### Act

Conservation actions: (1) construct Saola breeding centre in Viet Nam; (2) improve protection of Tamaraw population.

A group of Tamaraw  
Photo: Emmanuel Schutz/d'Aboville Foundation



Saola Working Group Lao field survey team  
setting camera traps  
Photo: SWG Lao Saola Team



**Network**

Capacity building: (1) hold two training workshops for Indonesian zoo educators to set up network and test out materials; (2) hold a Tamaraw PHVA workshop and produce a report; (3) hold three animal husbandry training workshops for zookeepers on Banteng, Anoa and Babirusa; (4) hold one animal husbandry training workshop for forest ranger staff on Anoa and Babirusa; (5) assess Indonesian zoo experts to plan future training.

**Communicate**

Communication: launch AWCSG newsletter.

**Activities and results 2020**

**Assess**

Research activities

- i.** Additional data is being analysed to add to the publication on Anoa genetics, meaning completion is delayed. (KSR #32)
- ii.** A wider study has been initiated on Kouprey by partners that is adding modelling, so completion is delayed. (KSR #32)
- iii.** Tamaraw population monitoring and improved assessment were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (KSR #12)
- iv.** Initiation of a study on Banteng monitoring in east Javan park was not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but much preparation has occurred and camera trapping will begin in mid-2021. (KSR #12)
- v.** Camera trapping to detect Saola has continued with increased effort at high priority sites in the quadrennium. Unfortunately, due to the rarity of Saola, no confirmation has occurred, but further increased effort and new techniques will be continued in the coming years. (KSR #27)

**Plan**

Planning

**i.** A masterplan for Anoa, Banteng and Babirusa was completed in 2019 following World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) review. (KSR #15)

**Act**

Conservation actions

**i.** Employment of SMART monitoring by rangers is improving the effectiveness of Tamaraw population protection. (KSR #31)

**Network**

Capacity building

**i.** A training workshop for Indonesian zoo educators was delayed due to COVID-19. (KSR #34)

**ii.** A zookeeper husbandry training framework was developed and webinars given by international experts to improve animal husbandry in Indonesian zoos. (KSR #25)

**Communicate**

Communication

**i.** Three issues of the newsletter *BULLETIN* were published in 2020. (KSR #28)

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**Summary of activities 2020**

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	5	
Plan	1	
Act	1	
Network	2	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 12, 15, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34

KSR: Key Species Result