

IUCN SSC Equid Specialist Group

2018 Report



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Number of members

65

Social networks

Facebook:
IUCN/SSC Equid Specialist Group
Website:
www.equids.org



Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Equid Specialist Group (ESG) is to conserve biological diversity by developing and executing programmes to study, save, restore, and manage wisely wild equids and their habitats. Our greatest challenge is to improve wild equid conservation status, to sustain their ecosystems and to enhance the livelihoods of local communities.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we hope that the conservation status of the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*, Critically Endangered) is improved by capacity building in the two main range states, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the establishment of a protected area in Eritrea. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) road map for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass has been completed and the species is listed on Appendix I of CMS. Przewalski's Horse (*Equus ferus przewalskii*, Endangered) populations are expected to increase in Mongolia, and further reintroduction sites may become necessary; a national Action Plan for the species will be developed. Equid species in Africa – Grevy's Zebra (*Equus grevyi*, Endangered), Mountain Zebra (*Equus zebra*, Vulnerable), and Plains Zebra (*Equus quagga*, Near Threatened) – are at threat from catastrophic droughts; conservation efforts in range states will aim to ameliorate these effects. In Asia, conservation efforts of Asiatic Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus*, Near Threatened) and Kiang (*Equus kiang*, Least Concern) will continue, so we do not expect to see a decline in population numbers.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: complete Red List assessments of all seven wild equid species.

Plan

Planning: complete Ethiopian national action plan for three wild equids.

Policy advice: (1) produce a CMS road map for African Wild Ass conservation; (2) African Wild Ass listed on CMS Appendix 1; (2) Przewalski's Horse listed on CMS Appendix 1.

Act

Conservation activities: (1) demarcate an African Wild Ass protected area in Eritrea; (2) continue working with all ESG members towards conservation of wild equids.

Network

Capacity building: (1) Eritrean national to obtain PhD on African Wild Ass; (2) Ethiopian national to obtain PhD on African Wild Ass; (3) conduct scout training courses in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Membership: increase membership diversity.

Communicate

Scientific meetings: convene an International Conference on Wild Equids in 2019.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. Assessments for all seven wild equids completed. All Red List assessments are up to date. (KSR #1)

Two plains zebras greeting
Photo: Patricia D. Moehlman



Kiang (*Equus kiang*), Least Concern
Photo: Patricia D. Moehlman



Plan

Planning

i. The Ethiopian National Action Plan for Wild Equids (African Wild Ass, Grevy's Zebra, Plains Zebra) was completed, approved by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), and implementation has started. Dr Fanuel Kebede, who was supported by the ESG, is now Director of Research for the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority. (KSR #15, 26, 28)

Policy advice

- i.** We assisted with production of the *Road Map for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass Equus africanus 2017-2027*, CMS Technical Series Publication No. 34, which was approved by CMS COP 12. (KSR #15, 26, 28, 29)
- ii.** Proposals were developed for listing the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*) on CMS Appendix I at CMS COP 12; they were submitted and approved at CMS COP 12. (KSR #18, 26)
- iii.** Listing of Przewalski's Horse (*Equus ferus przewalskii*) on CMS Appendix I was approved at CMS COP 12. (KSR #18, 26)

Act

Conservation actions

- i.** Research on the population biology and the distribution of the African Wild Ass has established that the most important area for this species' reproduction and population viability in Eritrea is the Messir Plateau, Northern Red Sea Zoba. Demarcation of the protected area has been funded. (KSR #22, 30)
- ii.** Action plan for the conservation of wild equids approved. The Ethiopian National Action Plan for Wild Equids (African Wild Ass, Grevy's Zebra, Plains Zebra) was completed, approved by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, and implementation has started. (KSR #15, 31)

Network

Capacity building

- i.** An Eritrean national is enrolled and conducting doctoral research on African Wild Ass distribution, population viability and habitat utilisation. Research and analyses on the population viability of African Wild Ass in Eritrea completed and published. Publication of 'Viability of the critically endangered African wild ass (*Equus africanus*) population on Messir Plateau (Eritrea)' in *Journal of Mammalogy*. (KSR #32, 38)
- ii.** An Ethiopian national is enrolled and conducting doctoral research on African Wild Ass distribution, population viability and habitat utilisation. Research on population viability ongoing. (KSR #32, 38)
- iii.** Funding secured, training programmes scheduled. (KSR #12)

Membership

i. We have sixty-five members from 25 countries, composed of 25 women and 40 men.

Communicate

Scientific meetings

i. International Conference on Wild Equids will be convened in Prague in September 2019. Organizing committee was established, conference scheduled and conference locale secured. (KSR #28, 32, 33, 34, 38)

Acknowledgements

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Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority for hosting and organising the Ethiopia National Wild Equid Action Plan workshop. We are very grateful to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) for hosting the African Wild Ass Range State meeting in Bonn, Germany. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety provided funding for the range state meeting and the development of the African Wild Ass road map and participation of range state nationals at CMS COP 12. Subsequently the Germany Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and CMS provided funding for implementing road map actions. We would particularly like to thank Dr Elsa Nickel, Christiane Paulus, Oliver Schall, Bert Lenten and Yelizaveta Protas for their contributions and support.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 5/5

Assess	1	
Plan	4	
Act	2	
Network	4	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 12, 15, 18, 22, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38

KSR: Key Species Result