

IUCN SSC Equid Specialist Group

2020 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

79

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 I; (3) Przewalski's Horse listed on CMS Appendix I.

Act

Conservation actions: (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 2020

Plan

Policy

i. CMS COP13 adopted revised version of the Resolution 12.18 (Rev.COP13), encouraging current and former range states of the African Wild Ass (AWA) to implement the CMS Roadmap on the Conservation of the African Wild Ass. (KSR #26)



Act

Conservation actions

- i.** Funding for demarcation of an African Wild Ass protected area in Eritrea has been secured. (KSR #22, 30)
- ii.** Members of the ESG are active in at least nine locations conducting conservation activities. (KSR #15, 31)

Network

Capacity building

- i.** The Eritrean national is now doing a post doc. (KSR #32, 38)
- ii.** The Ethiopian national is now doing a post doc. (KSR #32, 38)

Communicate

Communication

- i.** Input to CMS COP13. Moehlman was a member of the IUCN delegation to CMS COP 13 where UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc26.3.2 proposed amendment to decision 12.71 was adopted. (KSR #26)

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Critically Endangered African Wild Ass, *Equus africanus*, female and foal on the Messir Plateau, Eritrea
 Photo: R. T. Tesfai

Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Plan	1	
Act	2	
Network	2	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 15, 22, 26, 30, 31, 32, 38

KSR: Key Species Result