

2016-2017 Report



Harald Beck



Mariana Altrichter

Co-Chairs

Harald Beck ⁽¹⁾

Mariana Altrichter ⁽²⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Arnaud Desbiez ⁽³⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Department of Biological Sciences,
Towson University, US

⁽²⁾ Prescott, Arizona, MA, Prescott College, US

⁽³⁾ Royal Zoological Society of Scotland,
Scotland

Number of members

41

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN Peccary Specialist Group

Website:

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/9642>



Mission statement

The overall aim of the Peccary Specialist Group is to promote the long-term conservation of peccaries and their natural habitats, and the recovery or restoration of peccary species, populations and communities. The specific objectives are: (1) contribute to peccary conservation through management and research, (2) consolidate the group of researchers and other people interested in the biology, conservation and management of peccaries, and (3) foster communication, coordination, collaboration and exchange of information.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Communications

■ Communication

i. Several of our members had major outreach to the media, i.e. Mariana M. Camino and colleagues published a paper in the journal *Ethology* on the mourning behaviour of collared peccaries. This paper gained much attention from the news and the story was featured in the media, in National Geographic (<https://goo.gl/Br2Kz4>), the New Scientist, the Independent (UK), a South Korean online newspaper, a TV program from Phoenix and several other sites. (KSR #28)

ii. Dr. Jaime Gongora was also very active. As example, three pieces of his work, including project collaboration and publications through social media: (1) <https://twitter.com/JaimeGongoraSyd/status/934019948392849408>; (2) <https://twitter.com/JaimeGongoraSyd/status/933779208110718976> and (3) <https://twitter.com/JaimeGongoraSyd/status/914624876324909056>. (KSR #28)

iii. Dr. Alexine Keuroghlian and other members of the Peccary SG were very successful in reaching out to the communities: (1) Mongabay kids article about peccaries (http://kids.mongabay.com/animal-profiles/peccaries_extended.html); (2) "Sushi for Peccaries," a short article describing some interesting peccary behaviour and its conservation implications, which also revealed the first-ever photos documenting fish consumption by peccaries (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/04/130429175919.htm>); (3) the first nature documentary on peccaries, called "Peccary Party", can be seen on Love Nature (Canadian network) and on Smithsonian Earth: <https://www.amazon.com/Bird-Paradise/dp/B01N3TF6QS>; (4) "How the overlooked peccary engineers the Amazon", an interview with Harald Beck (<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/09/140927-peccary-wallow-amazon-rainforest-camera-trap-biodiversity-science/>); (5) "Racing against time to save the Tagua and its vanishing Chaco home" (<https://news.mongabay.com/2017/01/racing-against-time-to-save-the-tagua-and-its-vanishing-chaco-home/>); (6) "Charcoal and cattle ranching tearing apart the Gran Chaco" (<https://news.mongabay.com/2017/07/charcoal-and-cattle-tearing-apart-the-gran-chaco/>); and (7) when the Peccary Project team needed an innovative way to help protect the species and educate rural communities about its importance, they



contacted Kitty and proposed that the species be the “challenge” for her group of artists that contribute to the “52 weeks - Nature Painting Challenge” group on Facebook. The creativity and generosity of the artists resulted in over 38 peccary paintings, showcasing a wide range of artistic styles and capturing the peccary’s social behaviour, environment and charm. These inspirational pieces of art will help raise awareness about the plight of the species and will be an important contribution to environmental education and conservation efforts throughout the many Latin American countries, where the species is threatened. All the artwork can be found on the IUCN Peccary Specialist FB page (<https://web.facebook.com/IUCN-Peccary-Specialist-Group>). (KSR #34)

■ **Conservation activities**

i. Several of our members have been engaged in educational and public awareness activities. For example, in the Argentinean Chaco, some members did activities with local schools, in areas inhabited by the Chacoan Peccary

(*Catagonus wagneri*), disseminating information about the importance of conserving the species and its habitats. We visited 15 schools, we did public presentations, games, sports and art. They also worked with local people and there was a local inhabitant of the Dry Chaco doing public presentations about the importance of conserving the Chacoan Peccary and its habitats. They went to meetings with the Office in charge of National Protected Areas and will continue visiting local schools. We generated educational material together with local people, for local people. (KSR #37)

■ **Research activities**

i. Five of the SSC Peccary Specialist group members co-authored four book chapters that are now published (<https://goo.gl/xtcqDQ>) which contributed to a major outreach to the larger scientific and wider community. (KSR #32)

ii. Many SSC Peccary Specialist members published additional book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, including a Nature paper which helped outreach to the scientific community. (KSR #34)

iii. Several members reviewed the status of White-lipped peccaries (*Tayassu pecari*) across Mesoamerica. Reyna Hurtado et al. 2017. White-lipped Peccary in Mesoamerica: Status, Threats and Conservation Actions. *Suiform Soundings* 15(2): 31-35. (KSR #32)

iv. Many members published in various outlets and expanded our ecological understanding and promoted conservation of peccaries. For example, publications in collaboration between several members of the group: (1) Marcos Briceño-Méndez, E. J. Naranjo, M. Altrichter and S. Mandujano. 2017. Availability of two species of fruits and their influence on the social structure of *Tayassu pecari* and *Dicotyles tajacu*. *Therya*; (2) Briceño-Méndez, M., E.J. Naranjo, S. Mandujano, M. Altrichter & R. Reyna-Hurtado. 2016. Response to hunting by two sympatric species of peccaries (*Tayassu pecari* and *Pecari tajacu*) in Calakmul, Mexico.



Jose Moreira. ECOSUR and WCS
Photo: Peccary SG archives



Cecile Hansen and several researchers during
the capture of a White-lipped Peccary (*Tayassu pecari*)
Photo: Peccary SG archives

Tropical Conservation Science; (3) Altrichter, M. et al. Peccaries; conservation and management. Chapter 26. In: *Wild pigs and peccaries species*, Cambridge University Press; (4) Altrichter, M. et al. Chacoan Peccary. Chapter 23. In: *Wild pigs and peccaries species*, Cambridge University Press; (5) Altrichter, M. et al. Collared Peccary (*Pecari tajacu*). Chapter 24. In: *Wild pigs and peccaries species*, Cambridge University Press; (6) Beck, H., A. Keuroghlian, R. Hurtado, M. Altrichter & L. Gongora. White-lipped Peccary (*Tayassu pecari*). Chapter 25. In: *Wild pigs and peccaries species*, Cambridge University Press; and (7) several members of our group collaborated to write chapters in the book *Ecology, conservation and management of wild pigs and peccaries*. (KSR #32)

■ Scientific meetings

i. Several members presented talks or posters at professional meetings. For example, Richard-Hansen C, Berzins R., Petit M., Rux O., Goguillon B. 2017. Use of corridors and fragmented landscapes by White-lipped Peccaries in French Guyana. ATBC Conference, July 2017, Merida, Mexico.

Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

i. Other members were involved in conservation and management planning. For example, some members were actively involved in the development of a White-lipped Peccary National Conservation Plan in Ecuador. A first draft has been completed and is now being reviewed by the Ministry of the Environment. We expect to have a final version by mid-2018. (KSR #31)



Chacoan Peccary (*Catagonus wagneri*) Workshop
 Photo: Peccary SG archives

■ **Research activities**

i. Other members continue to develop new methodological tools to more effectively monitor peccary populations. For example, Micaela Camino et al. monitored peccaries with three field methodologies and were able to analyse information to find the best method for monitoring peccaries in the dry Chaco. They also got funding from MBZ to continue their activities. (KSR #32)

■ **Technical advice**

i. We distributed the Chacoan Peccary, Conservation Report to all involved members, conservation biologists, farmers and policy makers. Now we hope that the discussion continues and some of our proposed actions will be implemented. (KSR #27)

Acknowledgements

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Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: re-assess threat levels for White-lipped Peccary.

Research activities: obtain the most recent population density estimates of White-lipped Peccary, populations across their geographical range.

Communications

Communication: reach a wider audience by further developing a shared homepage with the Hippo Specialist Group.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: implement the Chacoan Peccary Conservation Report, which was published in 2016, in the field.

Increasing diversity of SSC

Membership: have a new Red List Coordinator as soon as possible.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

The outcome of their research would dramatically affect our conservation planning and the IUCN Red List species evaluations.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 2/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Communications (9 activities)
- Conservation action (3 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 27, 28, 31, 32, 34, 37

KSR: Key Species Result