

IUCN SSC South American Camelid Specialist Group

2019 Report



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Chair

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

35

Social networks

Website: www.camelid.org
Twitter: @GrupoGeecs



Mission statement

To promote the conservation and sustainable use of (wild) South American Camelids in their area of geographic distribution.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envision a substantial advance in reducing the extinction risk of some reduced and isolated populations of camelids, and reducing/managing the conflict between the species and human activities in recovered and abundant populations. Through scientific information, accurate assessment of the populations at regional scale for local classification in conservation categories, and the implementation of national conservation plans for Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) and Vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*), we will build a governmental scenario for working with the species with local communities. We will continue to support sustainable use of species to benefit local people, and to fight against poaching and illegal trade in order to reduce their impact on natural populations. These conservation initiatives will be combined with communication and educational programmes, that we predict will impact positively on the attitude of human communities across the camelids' distribution.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Green List: (1) complete Guanaco assessment for the Green List; (2) complete Vicuña assessment for the Green List.

Policy: include assessment of the Vicuña in the US Endangered Species Act.

Red List: (1) complete one Vicuña reassessment for the Red List; (2) complete Guanaco subspecies assessment for the Red List; (3) complete Vicuña subspecies assessment for the Red List; (4) carry out classification of the Vicuña in a conservation category in Chile.

Research activities: write scientific articles affiliated as a Specialist Group.

Plan

Agreements: include the wild Bactrian Camel (*Camelus ferus*) within the remit of our Specialist Group.

Planning: (1) complete a conservation plan for Vicuña in Peru; (2) complete a management and conservation plan for Vicuña in Bolivia; (3) complete a conservation plan for Vicuña in Argentina; (4) complete a conservation plan for Vicuña in Chile; (5) complete a conservation plan for Guanaco in Peru; (6) complete a conservation plan for Guanaco in Bolivia; (7) complete a conservation plan for Guanaco in Paraguay; (8) complete a conservation plan for Guanaco in Argentina; (9) complete a conservation plan for Guanaco in Chile; (10) planning and assessment of a meeting for a new Conservation and Management Plan for South American Camelids.

Policy: (1) delineate Animal Welfare Criteria for the Management of South American Wild Camelids, and Protocol of Good Management Practices for Wild Guanacos; (2) apply the animal welfare protocol to commercial hunting.

Network

Membership: (1) update the membership protocol; (2) develop membership cancellation protocol.

Proposal development and funding: sign three funding agreements.

Synergy: formalise the group's host organisation.



Students of Graduate Course "Sustainable Management of Vicuñas", at Chaku, VICAM-COOPASAC, November 2018, Santa Catalina, JUJUY, Argentina
Photo: J. Atán.

Trap camera photograph obtained as part of the doctoral dissertation research conducted on guanaco-cattle conflicts in north-central Chile
Photo: Solange Vargas



Field Lab VICAM, Santa Catalina, Jujuy, Argentina. Students processing samples obtained at Chaku to study animal well-being
Photo: L. Barrionuevo



Communications

Communication: (1) publish four issues of the newsletter; (2) obtain a newsletter ISSN; (3) publish the Vicuña book (The southern subspecies); (4) update the website; (5) develop position statement about commercial hunting; (6) solicit report about mange disease in Vicuña; (7) develop report about methods of abundance estimates in large mammals; (8) review the proposal on a resolution about poaching and trafficking of Vicuña products for discussion at the 18th Conference of the Parties (CoP18) of CITES.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Green List

i. The Guanaco assessment for the Green List was finished by our Red List Authority and its results were shown in Abu Dhabi as an example. An article about the results will be included in our Specialist Group newsletter. (KSR #11)

ii. The Vicuña assessment for the Green List was finished by our Red List Authority and the results were shown in Abu Dhabi as an example. An article about the results will be included in our Specialist Group newsletter. (KSR #11)

Red List

i. The Vicuña and its subspecies were classified in conservation categories in Chile. The assessments were done by Chilean members of the South American Camelid Specialist Group. (KSR #2)

Research activities

i. Only the Chair published a scientific article that included the Specialist Group as affiliation. (KSR #43)

Plan

Agreements

i. Despite our efforts during the Abu Dhabi meeting, no agreements or scheduled plans were developed with the Antelope Specialist Group. We will not pursue this target any further. (KSR #1, 29)

Planning

i. No news from the Argentinean government or agencies about the Guanaco Conservation Plan in Argentina. Nevertheless, a resolution for the next World Conservation Congress was approved for discussion. (KSR #18)

Policy

i. Our animal welfare protocol applied to commercial hunting is being reviewed by our members. (KSR #26, 35, 36)

Network

Proposal development and funding

i. Funding agencies dropped for several reasons, mainly in Chile. (KSR #19)

Synergy

i. The Faculty of Forest Science and Conservation of Nature, University of Chile, signed an agreement with SSC and is acting as the Specialist Group's host organisation for three years. (KSR #29)

Communications

Communication

i. Our 2019 newsletter was delayed, because invited authors have not finished their articles. The newsletter will be published in the course of 2020. (KSR #28)

ii. The Vicuña book (southern subspecies) was finished in 2019, but will be printed in January 2020. (KSR #28)

iii. The South American Camelid Specialist Group website was updated at least four times during 2019. Nevertheless, funding is needed to continue with the updates. (KSR #28)

iv. Our position statement about commercial hunting is being reviewed by our members. (KSR #28)

v. Our report about mange disease in Vicuña is on course. The final version must be sent to the Vicuña Convention. That meeting has been delayed until the end of 2020. (KSR #27, 28)

vi. The proposal for a resolution about poaching and trafficking of Vicuña products was approved by all parties at CITES CoP18, Geneva, in 2019. (KSR #26, 27)

Acknowledgements

We thank the following agencies and organisations: Vicuña Convention; Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG) and Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF), Chile; Faculty of Forestry Science and Conservation of Nature, University of Chile, Chile

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5

Assess	4	
Plan	3	
Network	2	
Communicate	6	

Main Key Species Results (KSR) addressed: 1, 2, 11, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29, 35, 36, 43

Resolutions addressed: WCC 2016 Res 093

KSR: Key Species Result