

IUCN SSC South American Camelid Specialist Group

2020 Report



Pablo Carmanchahi

Chair

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

35

Social networks

Twitter: @GrupoGeCS

Website: www.camelid.org



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

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) plan and assess 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.

Mother and calf Guanacos. Reserva Provincial La Payunia, provincia de Mendoza, Argentina
Photo: Antonella Panebianco



Vicuña. Paso de San Francisco, provincia de Catamarca, Argentina
Photo: Pablo Carmanchahi



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.

Communicate

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 a position statement about commercial hunting; (6) solicit a report about mange disease in Vicuña; (7) develop a 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) to CITES.

Activities and results 2020

Plan

Planning

i. There is no news from the Argentinean government or agencies regarding the conservation plan of Guanaco in Argentina. Nevertheless, a resolution for the next IUCN World Conservation Congress was approved for discussion. (KSR #18)

ii. There is no news from the Chilean government or agencies regarding the conservation plan of Guanaco in Chile. An initiative is only underway for central Chile. This initiative has been organised and headed by Wildlife Conservation Society. (KSR #18)



Release of free-ranging Guanaco after being sheared by Cooperativa Payún Matrú. Reserva Provincial La Payunia, provincia de Mendoza, Argentina
Photo: Antonella Panebianco

Communicate

Communication

i. Our 2020 newsletter was delayed because invited authors had not finished their articles. The newsletter will be published in the course of 2021. (KSR #28)

ii. The Vicuña book was finished in 2019, but it was printed in January 2020. (KSR #28)

iii. The website was updated at least four times during 2020. 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, 36)

v. Our report about mange disease in Vicuña is underway. The final version must be sent to the Vicuña Convention. That meeting has been delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. (KSR #23)



Vicuña management by Cooperativa Agroganadera de Santa Catalina and Comunidad Aborigen Atu Shapi de Morritos. Santa Catalina, Jujuy Province, Argentina
Photo: Yanina Arzamendia

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Summary of activities 2020

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

Plan **2** ||

Communicate **5** |||||

Main KSRs addressed: 18, 23, 28, 36

KSR: Key Species Result