

## 2016-2017 Report



Rebecca Lewison



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### Co-Chairs

Rebecca Lewison (1)  
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### Red List Authority Coordinator

Chris Ransom (3)

### Location/Affiliation

- (1) San Diego State University, San Diego, California, US  
(2) Zoo Ostrava, Michálkovicá 197, 710 00 Ostrava, Czechia  
(3) Zoological Society of London, London, UK

### Number of members

21



### Mission statement

We are committed to working with the global conservation network, governmental and other entities to ensure the long-term survival of the two hippo species (common and pygmy) and to support sustainable conservation and management of hippos across their range.

### Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

#### Barometer of life

##### ■ Red List

- i. A revised and improved Red List assessment for pygmy hippos was completed. This was strengthened by a coordinated national action plan activity that was facilitated by David Mallon, FFI and others in 2013. (KSR #2)
- ii. Updated Red List for common hippos published. Lewison, R. & Pluháček, J. 2017. *Hippopotamus amphibius*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017: e.T10103A18567364. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-2.RLTS.T10103A18567364.en>. (KSR #2)

#### Capacity building

##### ■ Scientific meetings

- i. For the first time in over 10 years, the Hippo Specialist Group (HSG) met as part of a larger meeting convened in Czechia, Antelope, Giraffe and Hippo, 2017 by Derbianus Conservation and the Czech University of Life Science, Prague <http://www.anghip2017.com/>.

### Acknowledgements

We thank the following organizations that supported hippo activities in 2013-2017: Derbianus Conservation, Czech University of Life Sciences, Zoo Ostrava, Ministry of the Environment Czech Republic, Flora and Fauna International and Liberian Forest Development Authority. Expert opinion and input from: BirdLife International, Environmental Protection Agency, Farmers Associated for the Conservation of the Environment, Forest Cry Liberia, Forestry Development Authority, Institute for Breeding Rare and Endangered African Mammals (IBREAM), Phillip Robinson, Pygmy Hippo Foundation/Hummingbird Resources, and the Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia.

### Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

#### Barometer of life

Red List: Red List assessment for common hippo.

#### Communications

Communication: (1) update the HSG website; (2) launch social media for HSG, to achieve 5 comms partners using #HippoSG per month. Synergy: (1) strengthen HSG intra-group communication by initiating quarterly emails/informal newsletters to members; (2) strengthen HSG intra-group communication by creating online resource site for HSG members.

#### Conservation action

Conservation activities: support hippo conservation projects through fundraising and capacity building.

Pygmy hippo at Dvur Králové Zoo, Czechia  
Photo: Jan Pluháček



Common Hippopotamus  
(*Hippopotamus amphibius*),  
Vulnerable  
Photo: Norbert Rosing

### Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

The HSG has identified three key priorities for the current (2017-2020) quadrennial to ensure that we can achieve the desired direct impact on hippo species conservation:

(1) Communication and outreach: to strengthen and improve awareness of hippo conservation within the general public and conservation community. Key impact activities for this priority are website redevelopment and launch, social media engagement, and stronger intra-group communication.

(2) Partnerships: it is clear to catalyze conservation and research action the HSG needs partners. We are looking for partner institutions willing to host the HSG website, help in fund management, and work collaboratively with the HSG to support shared vision and activities.

(3) Conservation projects: common hippos need regional action plans including coordination across West, Central, and East Africa; on the other hand, pygmy hippos already count on action plans, nevertheless need a conservation network that has the ability to support key initiatives in an implementation of this action plan. These are seven key projects that HSG will initiate as soon as funding becomes available. We plan to work with our partners to secure resources that can support these and other conservation and research projects.

### Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 2/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (2 activities)
- Capacity building (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 2

KSR: Key Species Result



Mother hippo and newborn calf  
Photo: A. Goldberg