

IUCN SSC Hippo Specialist Group



2018 Report



Rebecca Lewison



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Co-Chairs

Rebecca Lewison (1)
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Location/Affiliation

(1) San Diego State University, San Diego,
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Number of members

21

Social networks

Website:
<https://sites.google.com/site/wildpigspecialist-group/>



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.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

The Hippo Specialist Group (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 re-development and launch, social media engagement, and stronger intra-group communication.

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

(3) Conservation projects: Common Hippos (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) need regional action plans including coordination across West, Central, and East Africa; Pygmy Hippos (*Choeropsis liberiensis*) already have action plans in place, but require a conservation network that has the ability to support key initiatives in implementing this action plan. These are eight 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.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: Red List assessment for the Common Hippo.

Network

Proposal development and funding: support hippo conservation projects through fundraising and capacity building.

Synergy: (1) strengthen HSG intra-group communication by initiating quarterly emails/informal newsletters to members; (2) strengthen HSG intra-group communication by creating an online resource site for HSG members.

Communicate

Communication: (1) update the HSG website; (2) launch Facebook account.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. The Red List assessment for the species was completed and published. (KSR #1)

Network

Proposal development and funding

i. In total, eight hippo conservation projects were identified (the eighth one in 2018) and are announced on webpages; the Co-Chairs are actively looking for support for the projects, though still without results. (KSR #18)

Synergy

i. HSG members are regularly informed about current issues (e.g. Hippo culling in Zambia) and asked for their expertise; members are regularly requested to submit reports to the newsletter (*Suiform Soundings*) and about publishing the newsletter.

ii. The online resource site for HSG members is in preparation.



Pygmy hippopotamus (*Cheoropsis liberiensis*) in Plzeň Zoo, Czechia
Photo: Jan Pluháček



Captive population of pygmy hippopotamus might play a crucial role in conservation of the species
Photo: Jan Pluháček

Communicate

Communication

- i. The HSG website was updated including species accounts, list of members of the HSG and the list of projects supported by the HSG. (KSR #28)
- ii. The HSG regularly reports updates to the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

We thank Thiemo Braasch for his help in updating the webpages and perfect cooperation on the newsletter *Suiform Soundings*. We are also grateful to the members of HSG for their important contribution in hippo conservation and active work on projects in the field.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Assess	1	
Network	3	
Communicate	2	
Main KSRs addressed: 1, 18, 28		

KSR: Key Species Result