

IUCN SSC South American Camelid Specialist Group

2018 Report



Benito A. González

Chair

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Location/Affiliation

(1) Facultad de Ciencias Forestales y de la Conservación de la Naturaleza, Universidad de Chile, Chile
(2) Department of Ecology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

Number of members

35

Social networks

Website:
www.camelid.org
Twitter:
[@GrupoGeecs](https://twitter.com/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 USA 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: analyse the idea to 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 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 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.

Communications

Communication: (1) publish four issues of the newsletter; (2) obtain a newsletter ISSN; (3) publish the Vicuña book (The southern subspe-



Acercamiento del mismo grupo observado en la foto anterior. Ambas fotos pertenecen al Centro de Ski Portillo, Andes of central Chile
Photo: Solange Vargas

cies); (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 of 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 2018

Assess

Green List

- i.** A focal point was identified and invited to complete the Guanaco assessment for the Green List. (KSR #11)
- ii.** A focal point was identified and invited to complete the Vicuña assessment for the Green List. (KSR #11)

Policy

- i.** Members of our Specialist Group supplied information to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the reassessment of the Vicuña in the US Endangered Species Act. (KSR #27)

Red List

- i.** The Vicuña reassessment was uploaded in June 2018. (KSR #1)
- ii.** An initial proposal was written by our Red List Authority on the Vicuña subspecies assessment for the Red List in our newsletter and the Southern Vicuña Book. (KSR #2)
- iii.** An agreement with the government agency was achieved in order for our Specialist Group to head the assessment of the species in Chile. (KSR #2)

Research activities

- i.** One scientific article affiliated as the South American Camelid Specialist Group (SAC-SG) and written by Jane C. Wheeler was published in *Conservation Letters*. (KSR #43)

Plan

Planning

- i.** The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation were applied to Vicuña in Chile. (KSR #18)
- ii.** A brief meeting was held by our Chair in Asunción, Paraguay, to motivate public agencies and NGOs to start the process of preparing a conservation plan for the Guanaco in Paraguay. (KSR #18)
- iii.** An update of the National Plan for the management of the Guanaco in Argentina was conducted by governmental institutions, but lack of effective participation mechanisms of members of our Specialist Group was detected. (KSR #18)
- iv.** A governmental institution (Forestry Service) is looking for funding in order to apply the Open Standards for the Practice of Guanaco Conservation in Chile. (KSR #18)

Policy

- i.** A Protocol of Good Management Practices for Wild Guanacos was delineated by members in Argentina and was made available to provincial and national implementing authorities. (KSR #26, 35, 36)
- ii.** A draft of the animal welfare protocol applied to commercial hunting was delineated by members in Chile. (KSR #27)

Network

Membership

- i.** The membership protocol must be reviewed in order to include more professionals from governmental agencies and researchers from countries and regions with low representation in our Specialist Group. Similarly, we are looking for equal (50/50) representation by women and men.

Proposal development and funding

- i.** Some private organisations were identified in order to organise meetings between them and our Chair, to explain our mission and the necessity of funds. (KSR #19)

Synergy

- i.** An agreement between SSC and Facultad de Ciencias Forestales y de la Conservación de la Naturaleza, Universidad de Chile, is under review.

Communications

Communication

- i.** The 2018 issue of our newsletter was written and will be uploaded to our webpage in January 2019. (KSR #28)
- ii.** Some attempts were made during 2018 by our Editorial Committee to get the ISSN of our newsletter, but the delay of the current newsletter issue put our initiative in stand-by. (KSR #28)
- iii.** All chapters of the Vicuña book (The southern subspecies) were written and sent by different authors during the end of 2018. (KSR #28)
- iv.** Our website was updated several times during the year in order to include news and documents. (KSR #28)
- v.** A draft of the position statement on commercial hunting was delineated by members in Chile. (KSR #27, 28)
- vi.** A report on Mange disease in Vicuña was solicited in the last meeting of the Vicuña Convention held in Jujuy, Argentina, in 2018.
- vii.** A report on methods of abundance estimates in large mammals will be offered by our Specialist Group in the next meeting of the Vicuña Convention, to be held in Chimborazo, Ecuador, in 2020.
- viii.** The proposal on a resolution about poaching and trafficking of Vicuña products was discussed and approved in the Vicuña Convention in Jujuy, Argentina, 2018. (KSR #3, 4)

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 4/5

Assess	7	
Plan	6	
Network	3	
Communicate	8	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 35, 36, 43

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016 Res-093