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Number of members

115

Social networks

Facebook: IUCN Canid Specialist Group

Twitter: @WildCanids

Website: <https://www.canids.org>

YouTube: Wild Canids



Mission statement

Our mission is to promote the long-term conservation of all wild Canidae species throughout their ranges.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we aim to make advances in reducing the extinction risk of key threatened canid species. Our focus will be on species currently classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened. This aim will be achieved through the implementation of the following objectives: (1) to compile, synthesise and disseminate information on the conservation and status of all canid species across their range, with particular emphasis on species which are threatened or rare; (2) to provide and improve technical information and advice on all matters concerning wild canids, including their status in the wild, the threats they face and their conservation requirements, biology and natural history to all relevant bodies (range state government agencies; non-governmental organisations, including national and international organisations and potential funding bodies; inter-governmental organisations, e.g. IUCN, CITES; field projects concerned with canid conservation); (3) to promote and catalyse conservation activities benefitting wild canids, to be carried out by the above, prioritising and coordinating efforts of researchers and conservationists worldwide;

(4) to help raise funding for canid research and conservation and undertake research directly when necessary or appropriate; (5) to improve management of the common and sometimes troublesome species; (6) to build capacity through the exchange of ideas, information, and technical expertise among the members of the Group.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Green List: complete Green List assessment for two canid species.

Red List: complete Red List reassessment of all canid species.

Research activities: (1) complete update of status of Grey Wolves (*Canis lupus*) in Europe; (2) conduct survey of Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) and Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*) research and conservation efforts; (3) resolve systematic ambiguity surrounding old '*Canis lupus*' taxa; (4) monitor the status of the Darwin's Fox (*Lycalopex fulvipes*) in two protected areas of southern Chile; (5) generate and maintain information on Dhole (*Cuon alpinus*) distribution and identify sub-populations and connectivity to ensure viable populations.

Plan

Planning: (1) more effective engagement within the Maned Wolf Working Group through developing collaborative actions; (2) implement regional strategies and support new national action plans under the Range Wide Conservation Program for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs; (3) develop national conservation action plan for Darwin's Fox (*Lycalopex fulvipes*); (4) contribute to the new document on guidance to species conservation of the European Commission; (5) organise Dhole Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA).

Dingo, *Canis lupus dingo*, in Quinyambie
Photo: Benjamin Allen



Act

Conservation actions: (1) advance recovery of Red Wolf (*Canis rufus*) under the Endangered Species Act; (2) protect Ethiopian Wolves (*Canis simensis*) from disease through an integrated disease management strategy, with One Health benefits; (3) rescue Ethiopian Wolves through conservation translocations.

Network

Communication: establish Amazonian Canids listserv.

Membership: (1) develop Canid Specialist Group (CSG) membership and invigorate Working Groups; (2) address succession plan for the CSG.

Synergy: develop methods to integrate results of the Global Integrated Collection Assessment and Planning (ICAP) Workshop for Canids and Hyaenids Report.

Communicate

Communication: (1) develop context-specific methods for estimating Dhole abundance, demographic and ecological requirements; (2) compile Dhole publications and post on the Dhole Conservation Fund website; (3) develop range-wide health canid monitoring capacity and response; (4) evaluate human-Dhole conflict and relevant mitigation methods for use across the Dhole distribution range; (5) develop Amazonian Canids Section in canids.org.

Scientific meetings: (1) co-host the 2nd International Jackal Symposium, Marathon Bay, Greece; (2) endorse and contribute to the 6th Arctic Fox Conference in Svalbard; (3) organise the Annual Island Fox Group Meeting.



Darwin's Fox / Chilean Fox,
Lycalopex fulvipes
Photo: Chiloé Silvestre

Black-baked Jackal, *Canis mesomelas*, hunt
Photo: Miha Krofel



Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, known as Kangal or Karabaş Dogs, are common breed of livestock guarding dog used in the Kars-Ardahan area, Turkey
Photo: Josip Kusak



Bengal Fox, *Vulpes bengalensis*, in the Terai of Nepal
Photo: Naresh Kusi

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

i. All canid species assessments are currently completed (and less than 10 years old). (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. A meeting was organised by CSG and CIBIO (Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, Porto University) to resolve the systematic ambiguity surrounding the old '*Canis lupus*' taxa, in Porto, Portugal. It was attended by 14 experts, most of them CSG members (see https://www.canids.org/CBC/Old_World_Canis_Taxonomy_Workshop.pdf). (KSR #32)

Plan

Planning

i. Two countries (Zambia and Zimbabwe) secured official endorsement for revised and updated National Conservation Action Plans (NCAPs) for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs. One country (Senegal) developed plans in 2019 for conducting a workshop to develop an NCAP for African Wild Dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) in 2020; Terms of Reference are being developed. One region (eastern Africa) secured funding (from SAFE: Saving Animals From Extinction) for an international workshop in 2020 to review the regional conservation strategy for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs. Three countries with resident African Wild Dog populations (Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Chad) were added to the 11 countries engaging in the Range Wide Conservation Program for Cheetah and African Wild Dog (RWCP) National Cheetah/Carnivore Coordina-



Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*, in Alaska
Photo: Laura Prugh

Wolves, *Canis lupus*, feeding
Photo: Josip Kusak



tors (NCCs) programme to promote implementation of NCAPs for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs. Each NCC has either planned or begun to implement their own small-scale projects, at least one in each country, towards the implementation of their NCAPs. Ten countries with resident African Wild Dog populations received training from the RWCP and either planned or initiated small projects in 2019 towards implementing NCAPs. NCC training was carried out for all NCC countries (brackets are countries without resident African Wild Dogs) and small NCC projects either planned or implemented in: (Algeria), Angola, (Benin), Botswana, (Burkina Faso), Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, (Niger), South Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe. (KSR #15, 18, 20)

ii. Meetings were held in Bruxelles, in 2019, to contribute to the new document on guidance to species conservation of the European Commission. (KSR #15, 26)

iii. The February 2019 Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop brought together 30 experts from nine range countries, to produce a plan for the Dhole for its entire range. Outcomes include: (1) species distribution model, (2) population viability model, and (3) identifying conservation priorities and actions specific to each range country. The report and action plan will be shared with stakeholders to help guide management policies for Dhole in each country. Additionally, a network of relevant professionals and institutions was established, leading to collaborative research, synergistic knowledge-sharing and communication/outreach activities. See https://www.canids.org/resources/Dhole_PHVA_Report_2020.pdf. (KSR #15)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Protection of Ethiopian Wolves from disease through an integrated disease management strategy: Refer to Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) Annual Reports (available at <https://www.ethiopianwolf.org>). (KSR #23, 32)

ii. Fundraising efforts to rescue Ethiopian Wolves through conservation translocations: we secured some seed money for phase I. (KSR #24)

Network

Membership

i. Working Groups have been reinvigorated, a new Dingo Working Group was established, and membership reviewed, with 15 new members recruited.

Communicate

Scientific meetings

i. The Annual Island Fox Group Meeting has been conducted annually since 2004 and will be continued for the foreseeable future. (KSR #28)

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Acknowledgements

The CSG is hosted by the WildCRU at the University of Oxford. The Chair is kindly sponsored by the Born Free Foundation, who funds his Bill Travers Chair for Conservation Biology at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford. We are grateful to the many organisations and charities, including Born Free Foundation, Fondazione Segre, IUCN SOS, Wildlife Conservation Network, Wildlife Conservation Society, and many more, that have supported key field activities to protect wild canids. We are grateful for the many colleagues that assisted in Red List reassessment and attended the Dhole and canid taxonomy meetings.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 55

Assess	2	
Plan	3	
Act	2	
Network	1	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 18, 20, 23, 24, 26, 28, 32

KSR: Key Species Result