



Quarterly Report on
IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group activities
April to June 2018
for
Chester Zoo,
Global Wildlife Conservation and
Centre for Conservation of Tropical Ungulates

James Burton. June 2018

This is a quarterly update to let you know what activities the AWCSG has completed in the last three months. I hope that you find this interesting. Please share with those in your organisations as you see relevant. Also do get back to us if you would like any additional information.

The report is structured according to the six areas of work supported:

1. Leadership and day to day coordination of IUCN SSC AWCSG

- a. Stuart Young has made quick progress in his role as AWCSG Programme Officer. He is working closely with Chester Zoo staff and other members of the GSMPs. He is coordinating a number of areas of the GSMP partnership, is leading on the website update and beginning to become involved with Tamaraw research planning.
- b. James spent 106 days working on AWCSG activities in the first 6 months of 2018. This is a little above the allocated time, due to high workload during travel. 38 days was spent working on the GSMPs; 20 days each was spent on Tamaraw work (zonation workshop and PHVA workshop planning) and 20 days on Saola activities (attending the annual meeting, recruitment and calls).

2. Programme Director role for Action Indonesia GSMPs programme

- a. The 2018-19 Masterplan for anoa, banteng and babirusa is being drafted by the working group leaders, following the 2nd GSMP planning workshop (5-9 February). Monthly skype calls are being held to track progress of the masterplan production, which Stu is coordinating.
- b. James gave a plenary presentation promoting how the GSMPs have been developed and how TAGs and SGs should work together, to the 3rd TAG Chairs meeting in Budapest on 1st May. At this meeting James also met with Tony Sumampau, Jeff Holland and others involved with the GSMPs.
- c. James met with the new Head of Ex situ conservation in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry at the end of May, to introduce them to the GSMPs, and regarding the next 2 years of activities. She is supportive of the GSMPs.
- d. James also met with PKBSI members in May to agree training plans for 2018 and progress the 2nd set of breeding and transfer recommendations through the new PKBSI/ Indonesian zoo review process. Updates have been provided to the Husbandry Training Working Group and the Population Management Working Groups.

3. Strengthening links between EAZA / AZA and IUCN

- a. James participated in the EAZA Cattle and Camelid TAG Regional Collection Planning workshop on 3-4th May. The resulting plan will allow more focused conservation efforts on the most threatened species. This is only the 2nd TAG to implement this new process, and will act as a model for other EAZA TAGs.
- b. James participated in the ASAP meeting at the Joint TAG meeting and provided suggestions of how ex situ can contribute to conservation of ASAP species and the steps to prioritize and set this up. Indonesian and Philippines are 2 priority countries and AWCSG can use their links to support this relationship building.

4. Developing the partnership between supporters and AWCSG

- a. Jeff and James met in May and discussed progress of AWCSG work and other Asian Wild Cattle topics
- b. James visited Chester Zoo on 18-19th April and met with multiple staff, to progress activities discussed at the GSMP workshop, including catching up with Scott, Johanna, and Stu.
- c. James met and updated Barney during his visit to Oxford.

5. Scientific research conducted and published

- a. The paper James co-authored on genetics and evolution of ungulates on Sulawesi reached a far wider audience with a summary in the UK's Guardian newspaper: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/may/17/sulawesi-alfred-russel-wallace-wallacea-biologists>

6. Developing field projects and fundraising for activities of joint interest

The collaboration with the Tamaraw Conservation Program has further increased:

- a) James provided input of Tamaraw range requirements and provided facilitation at the Mts Iglit Baco Park Zonation Management Planning meeting in Philippines. This is led by Mike Appleton of GWC and will be a key aspect to improving protection for Tamaraw in future.
- b) A planning meeting for the Tamaraw PHVA workshop was also held with the head of the Tamaraw Conservation Program. The PHVA workshop will be held 27-30 November.
- c) Discussions were held with Alvaro Gonzalez about his ecology research plan.

James provided strategic and line management support to the Saola Working Group in the following ways:

- a) James participated in the Saola Working Group Task Team Leaders Annual planning meeting in Suffolk in 13-16th June, to support the Coordinator to develop an effective new plan of work.
- b) James completed SWG Coordinator's 6 monthly review in April
- c) James supported the Coordinator in recruitment of the new SWG Head of Operations
- d) James also mediated discussions on SWG governance, which are on-going

Looking ahead here are a few highlights:

- The GSMP Masterplan writing will be collated and completed
- Preparation will begin for animal husbandry training in Indonesian in November
- Preparations will continue for the Tamaraw PHVA workshop in November
- Funding applications will be submitted for GSMP and Tamaraw activities in the coming months

- The 1st edition of the Asian Wild Cattle SG Newsletter will be published, and updates made the website, as well as a number of article / newsletter pieces submitted.
- James and Stu will be attending the EAZA conference in September to present the GSMPs and complete planning of the training activities in November