

THE WILD CAMEL PROTECTION FOUNDATION
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Hon. Life Patron: Dr. Jane Goodall D.B.E.

Patrons: The Marchioness of Bute, The Countess of Chichester, Professor Yuan Guoying, Peter Hall, Jane McMorland Hunter of Hafton, Gerald Kidd, Damon de Laszlo, Lulu Lytle, Colin McIntosh, Professor David Munro, Romy Shovelton.

March 2017 - Newsletter Number 38

Dear Wild Camel Supporter

CAMEL and MONGOLIAN CULTURAL DAY – SUNDAY, 16th of JULY, 2017

Emma Buchanan, sister of WCPF Patron Lulu Lytle, who both travelled with me to the breeding centre at Zakhyn Us last September, has generously offered to organise a Camel and Mongolian Cultural Day on Sunday the 16th of July 2017. She made an approach to Mr. and Mrs. James Henderson who live in the delightful National Trust property of Buscot Park near Oxford and they have kindly agreed to our holding the event there. At the moment we are in the planning stage but it will differ from our previous Camel Race Days in that camels will not be racing this year. Camels will be giving dressage displays and there will, we hope, be camel rides for children. The primary emphasis will be on the Mongolians. It will be their cultural day and we hope to organise archery, wrestling, and horse riding accompanied by singing and traditional music. Again, all proceeds raised will go to the WCPF, Hunter Hall Wild Camel Breeding Centre in Mongolia. Please look at our website from time to time where up-to-date announcements will be made www.wildcamels.com It should be a wonderful day out in a superb setting.

MONGOLIA

Dovchin has retired from his post as Director of the Specially Protected Area Gobi “A” and has been replaced by Bayarbat. Dovchin was overseeing the management of the wild camel breeding centre on our behalf and has generously agreed to continue to do this for the time being. Meanwhile Bayarbat has organised a celebratory commemoration for the 20 years that WCPF has been operating in Mongolia, the 10 years since the foundation of WCPF Mongolia and the 30 years since the Mongolians caught their first wild camels which eventually became the nuclear herd of the breeding centre. These celebrations involving camel racing were clearly a great success and a number of important local dignitaries attended. Photographs are on WCPF’s Facebook page and on their website detailed above. In addition, Adiya Yadamsuren is planning a photographic exhibition in Ulaan Baator, which will again commemorate these three anniversaries. The British Ambassador to Mongolia has offered to give the British Embassy’s support for the exhibition.

Wild Camel Four-year-plan for Mongolia.

We are busy developing a four-year-plan which in particular will concentrate on: translocations of wild camels under IUCN guidelines from the breeding centre at Zakhyn Us Mongolia into the Specially Protected Area Gobi “A” and other possible locations. Identifying reasons for the decline in water resources. Vegetation transects at key habitat areas. Identifying problems of impoverished illegal miners in Gobi “A” and putting forward proposals for their future welfare. Training programme for Gobi “A” rangers.

The expected **LONG-TERM RESULTS** are:

A definitive picture of water resources in the Gobi “A – this will be of benefit to all the fauna and flora of Gobi “A”

A definitive assessment of grazing areas near strategic water points – a benefit to the fauna of Gobi “A”

A permanent solution to the problem of illegal miners within Gobi “A” – a huge benefit both to Gobi “A” and the impoverished illegal miners.

Co-operation with other organisations protecting Gobi wildlife, notably Professor Harry Reynolds and the Gobi Bear Project.

Professor Seddon, of Otago University, New Zealand a leading world expert in the translocation of captive species and Adiya Yadamsuren a scientist with extensive knowledge of the wild camel together with Anna Jemmett Information Officer of WCPF will be extensively involved with this project. Part of the funding has already been obtained by WCPF but further funding is still required.

In a related development, Adiya Yadamsuren and Anna Jemmett had a Skype meeting with Dr Hindrich who approached WCPF and who works in geoinformatics (GIS), the data management section of a company called MoMo.

Data management will be important for WCPF in the future and MoMo has created a geoportal that can store GIS data. This geoportal is FREE to use.

As a result of this meeting Dr Hindrich offered to put us in touch with an expert in water data to answer any queries, which may arise during the term of the four-year-plan. In addition WCPF can use GIS to make sense of the wild camel satellite collar data, to map water remotely, to use with drone technology and also to look back at past data.

Drone technology together with camera trapping, are two areas which WCPF is actively researching for use in their Four-Year-Plan. This meeting with Dr Hindrich could prove to be of great assistance in the future.

Acreege increase at the Breeding Centre

The Ministry of Nature and the Environment has approved an increase of land at the breeding centre by another 60 acres. This will require additional permanent fencing using wire and metal poles. Seven calves are expected to be born in the spring of this year, which could take the total of wild camels at the breeding centre to over 30. Clearly an extension is needed and we are most grateful to the Ministry for allowing us to increase the acreage.

CHINA

We have received some remarkable photos from China that were taken on camera traps in the Lop Nur Wild Camel National Nature Reserve which was established by the Chinese and WCPF in 2003. These show camels confronting wolves and also six young camel calves prancing around a man-made spring. Although he copes with illegal miners and undocumented visitors in a continual basis, Yuan Lei the Reserve Director and a Trustee of WCPF, is doing a difficult job extremely efficiently and has just sent the following brief report:

The latest news is:

- 1) We still do infrared ray cameras in the reserve to monitor animals around Spring. We will take the data from the cameras next month.*
- 2) We still focus on education activity. We have done many public awareness educational talks in schools, in super markets and in the community.*
- 3) Our wild camel and the reserve's exhibition will finish in ten days time. We have made a "sand table" covering the whole of the reserve in the exhibition. When we finish it I will send a photo to you.*

Ali Abutalip who was in charge of the Wildlife Office in Aksay Township, Gansu Province has unfortunately left to work with the local government administration. We are trying to find out the name of his replacement so we can get the latest information about the small herds of wild camels which are in the Annanba Reserve. Annanba's westerly border is contiguous with the Lop Nur Wild Camel National Reserve in Xinjiang province of which Yuan Lei is the Director.

AGREEMENT WITH ALTWELTKAMELE e.V

In November I visited Germany and the Altweltkamele e.V (AWK), in Rostock, the club to which all camel owners and zoos in Germany are affiliated. I gave a talk about the wild camels to the club and many prominent scientists in the camel conservation field were there as well as camel owners and representatives from German zoos who keep camels. As a result we have signed an agreement which states that AWK will assist WCPF whenever possible to promote its work to protect the critically endangered wild camel and its fragile desert habitat. To achieve this objective, WCPF and AWK will mutually cooperate on the following actions:

1. The WCPF Website in German

AWK agrees to translate into German material selected by WCPF from its website now or which may be added at any time in the future by WCPF to its website. It will be shown as a German Language Option on the existing WCPF website and accessed via a plug-in. WCPF agrees to set up this plug-in and the German language site on its website: <www.wildcamels.com>.

Only material approved by WCPF can be translated and added to the German language section of the WCPF website. In addition WCPF agrees to add material in German

provided by AWK, if such material promotes the work of WCPF in Germany or throughout the German-speaking world.

2. Sign Boards

AWK agrees to make Sign Boards containing information about the wild camel for zoological facilities in Germany where domestic Bactrian and Dromedary camels are kept. WCPF will provide the official WCPF logo, the text and sample artwork for the Sign Boards, which AWK will turn into a finished Sign Board and translate the text from the English into the German in cooperation with the local holding facility. Once approved by WCPF, then AWK will distribute the Sign Boards to the appropriate sites throughout Germany. AWK will provide WCPF with a list of Sign Board sites and contact details for their database. Once the Sign Boards are distributed WCPF agrees to put this information on the German language section of the WCPF website.

3. Translation of three Educational Booklets from English into German

AWK agrees to translate the three existing WCPF English language booklets for children and young adults about the wild camel, into German.

The three titles are:

1. *Why the Wild Camel is Critically Endangered.*
2. *The Wild Camel Breeding Centre in Mongolia.*
3. *How the Camel got its Hump*

Both WCPF and AWK will look for finance for the printing of the three educational booklets in the German language. WCPF will make contact through the British Ambassador to Mongolia with the German Ambassador in Ulaan Baator. Once translated by AWK, AWK agrees to distribute and/or sell these booklets, throughout the German-speaking world and send any money received to WCPF after the deduction of overhead costs.

4. WCPF Newsletters translated into German

WCPF will email copies in English of the WCPF newsletter as soon as it is published for translation into German. AWK will provide this translation service and agrees to distribute the newsletter via their German database to the German-speaking world. They will also provide WCPF with a German translation of each WCPF newsletter. The WCPF newsletter is published two or three times a year.

5. WCPF Four-Year Programme.

WCPF will provide AWK with details of their proposed 4-year programme for Mongolia, which is planned to start in 2017. WCPF is currently actively fund-raising for this programme.

This agreement is a major breakthrough into the German-speaking world where there is a surprisingly large interest in camels.

CAMEL CONFERENCE SOAS: 29th April - 30th April 2017

I will be presenting a paper on **The Release of Wild Camels into the Gobi Desert in Mongolia** on 29 April 2017 at 10.00 AM at SOAS, Russell Square: College Buildings,

London.

The conference will address all aspects of camel culture, past, present and future and in all continents. It will deal with both material and cultural concerns, and will cover both Dromedaries and Bactrians and wild camels, in all continents, but not related species originating in the Americas.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. For non-SOAS attendees there will be a small registration charge. If you wish to attend the conference, please send your contact details to the conference organiser Ed Emery at ed.emery@soas.ac.uk
If you can come it will be very good to see you there.

NANCY FITE and BERT

Nancy Fite, who many of will have met at the Camel Races at Chilham castle last September and who comes from America, owns a famous camel called Bert who is celebrating a VERY IMPORTANT BIRTHDAY and we all wish Bert a very Big Day. Nancy has been a long-term and a very generous supporter of WCPF.

WEBSITE, TWITTER and FACEBOOK

Anna Jemmett continues to do a brilliant job with our communications on Facebook and Twitter and will be helping us with project writing and fundraising for future Breeding Centre field projects. Our website is maintained and updated by Deborah Swain and her costs are funded by a generous Beijing supporter who has been a member of WCPF since the beginning. Please do continue to visit our website which is constantly being updated and contains a great deal of relevant information and pictures from both China and Mongolia. Photos and a commentary on the release are on the site as is the link to the French TV documentary. Please see:

www.wildcamels.com

www.facebook.com/WildCamels

www.twitter.com/WildCamels

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your annual subscription is used entirely for funding the Mongolian Breeding Centre Budget. So please remember to renew your annual membership and if you haven't, please send £20.00 (or its equivalent in foreign currency). With over 550 members and only volunteer staff we rely on members to send us the subscription themselves. You can pay by going direct to the website www.wildcamels.com using PayPal, or by setting up a direct debit with your bank. If you are paying in US dollars or Euros you can also transfer funds direct into the WCPF's Euro or US dollar accounts. **Please email us for the WCPF bank ACCOUNT and transfer details.** Thank you to the many members who already pay by **standing order** direct to the WCPF account. **We will send you our bank details on request.** This is cost effective and a huge help for the work of WCPF, as with this regular income we pay the monthly costs at the Breeding Centre.

SPONSORING A YOUNG WILD CAMEL

With seven young wild camels calves shortly to be born at the Breeding Centre we

are looking for their sponsorship. If you are already sponsoring a young wild camel at the Breeding Centre, your sponsorship covers vaccines, veterinary advice, hay and medicines. One extremely generous donor from America is sponsoring three wild camel calves. Please remember to send your annual payment, which was due **1st March 2017.**

TWO NEW SPONSORS

Wear for Wild and *My Claim Solved* are two new sponsors. *My Claim Solved* has generously sponsored the purchase of a camera trap for use in Mongolia. *Wear for Wild* is producing garments with the wild camel as a motif. If you are interested in finding out more, please go to LINKS on www.wildcamels.com and click on the link to both these companies.

LEGACIES

WCPF has been the fortunate receipt of several bequests, left to WCPF by wild camel supporters in a Will. Every bequest was spent entirely by WCPF either directly at the breeding centre or to fund research on the wild camel. So if you are making a Will do **Please remember the Wild Camel Protection Foundation.**

Renewed thanks for your great support for our on-going work – the protection of the critically endangered wild camel in its fragile desert habitat from extinction. It is with your help and your generous support that we are able to achieve so much.

Very best wishes,

John Hare
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