

THE WILD CAMEL PROTECTION FOUNDATION

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Hon. Life Patron: Dr. Jane Goodall D.B.E.

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Dear Wild Camel Supporter

WORLD CAMEL DAY - 22nd JUNE

WCPF UK, WCPF Mongolia and the Lop Nur Wild Camel National Nature Reserve have agreed to plan a series of activities on World Camel Day, June 22nd to promote the wild camel and the work being done in China and Mongolia to protect the Zoological Society of London's (ZSL's) listed 8th most endangered large mammal and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN's) listed critically endangered wild camel. The wild camel is protected as a Redbook listed species in both China and Mongolia.

UK AMBASSADOR TO MONGOLIA

The British Ambassador to Mongolia Ms. Catherine Arnold completed her tour of duty in Mongolia in December 2018. Catherine supported the WCPF in many ways and we are very sorry to see her leave Mongolia. We would like to thank her, for all her encouragement for our work to protect the wild camels in Mongolia and we wish her every success in her new posting.

DECEMBER WILD CAMEL WORKSHOP

WCPFUK held a Wild Camel Workshop at the Head Office in Benenden in early December 2017 to discuss the wild camels in Mongolia both at the WCPF managed Breeding Centre and the remnant wild camel population in the Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area 'A'. The outcome of the Workshop was as follows:

1. WCPF UK and Prague Zoo will co-operate on all work and field studies relating to the remnant wild camel population in the GGSPA 'A'.
2. Dr. John Ewen and Professor Phil Seddon both members of the IUCN Specialist Species Re-introduction Group Review Panel have agreed to advise WCPF UK on all aspects relating to translocation and release of captive wild camels from the Breeding Centre into the GGSPA 'A'. We are very grateful for their support for our work.
3. Anna Jemmett, WCPF UK Information Officer, will organise her PhD this year with the assistance of Dr. John Ewen. The PhD will be on her study and research of the wild camel and her findings during the three years. Her final PhD will be incorporated into the long term Wild Camel Management Plan. This plan will be for both the captive wild camels at the Breeding Centre and the remnant wild camel population in the GGSPA 'A'.
4. Dr Adiya Yadamsuren and his Mongolian NGO will co-operate fully with WCPF UK. A co-operation agreement was signed In January 2018.
5. WCPF UK will identify a second enclosure to enable some of the wild camels from the Breeding Centre to be located there either prior to release or for any other purpose e.g. accommodating a sick or injured camel.
6. WCPF UK and Prague Zoo will identify an area deep inside the GGSPA'A' to erect a fenced area for all soft (phased) releases of captive wild camels.
7. Prague Zoo plans to sign a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mongolian Ministry of Nature (MNE) to work in the GGSPA 'A' and co-operate with WCPF UK on all aspects of their

work which relates to the remnant wild camel population in the GGSPA 'A'.

MONGOLIA

WCPF NGO MONGOLIA AND DR. ADIYA YADAMSUREN

The co-operation with Dr. Adiya Yadamsuren started in January 2018 with an Agreement being signed between the two organisations and he is now travelling down to the Breeding Centre on a regular basis implementing sections of the WCPF UK annual management plan for the Breeding Centre. He and Anna Jemmett are working closely together and have already installed camera traps inside the Breeding Centre to monitor the behaviour of the captive wild camels during the winter months. They are also working on a SPARKS system for the Breeding Centre Stud. A study of the genetics of the captive wild camels will form part of Anna's PhD.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

WCPF UK had allocated a budget for local environmental awareness projects and WCPF Mongolia will be the implementing partner for these activities.

An NGO has been established by some of the Great Gobi 6, (GG6) organisers and they are going to work with WCPF UK and WCPF Mongolia to implement these environmental awareness programmes and projects in the local schools and communities. The Gobi Bear Project Director Professor Reynolds and Dr. Simek, the Deputy Director of Prague Zoo have also agreed to co-operate and co-fund these activities.

BREEDING CENTRE

The Annual Budget has been prepared and submitted to Mongolian Ministry of Nature and the Environment (MNE). We have had to allow for more hay and also a motor bike to enable the staff to travel between the old and new enclosures.

We are pleased to say we have obtained funding for one motor bike.

The heating has now been repaired in the breeding centre office accommodation and the structure inside the breeding centre altered, to make it safer for the staff to working during the wild camel mating season.

SECOND ENCLOSURE

During the December Wild Camel Workshop two ideas were discussed. The first is a second enclosure, close to the existing Breeding Centre, so that some of the captive wild camels could be removed from the main enclosure and kept separately in another secure enclosure. WCPF UK is now actively seeking to identify this site. And second, requires making a fenced area deep inside the Great Gobi Special Protected Area 'A' for soft (phased) release. A soft release is a release, which is managed over a number of weeks. A hard release is when the captive wild camels are released immediately. The two previous releases have been hard releases, but by establishing this fenced area, a soft release would become an option. These two new enclosures would enable several additional options to be considered, as well as a release in September 2018.

CHINA

A full report will be given in our next newsletter after we receive up-to-date report from the Director (and our patron) Dr. Yuan Lei.

APRIL VISIT - PRAGUE ZOO

Dr. Adiya Yadamsuren is the Mongolian Focal Point Representative for the Convention on Migrating Species (CMS) and he also represents at these meetings, the interests of the wild camel - which is a migrating species.

After his CMS meeting in April he will join me at Prague Zoo. Now the zoo has signed the MOU with the Mongolian MNE, we want to discuss a joint programme of activities for the GGSPA 'A'. They have worked with translocation of the Takhi, Prejewalski wild horses from Europe to the GGSPA 'B' (a separate reserve to the north of the wild camel reserve, the GGSPA 'A') for many years and will be completing a translocation and release in June 2018.

DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING

FUND RAISING WALK

Rosa, a Bactrian Camel Zoo-keeper at Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark is undertaking a walk across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostella during the month of April to raise money for the WCPF. Our Spanish WCPF film maker, Alejandro Llop, will be filming different sections of the walk. To DONATE and follow the walk, please go to our website www.wildcamels.com for all the information and how to donate.

If YOU have a fund raising suggestion do please contact me direct.

WEBSITE, TWITTER and FACEBOOK

Alejandro Llop, our Spanish filmmaker, has successfully translated pages of the website into Spanish. The link can be found in the top right hand corner of the website. We now have the website translated into Spanish and German.

Many thanks also to Anna Jemmett, who continues to do a brilliant job with our communications on Facebook and Twitter. Anna will be directly involved in both the development and implementation of the Wild Camel four-year-plan and future fundraising.

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 visit our Website and Facebook page, as they are updated regularly and contain a great deal of wild camel information and pictures from both China and Mongolia. Photos and a commentary on the release are also 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

Many thanks, to all our supporters world-wide. 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, then send £20.00 (or its equivalent in foreign currency) to WCPF. With over 600 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 the regular income is essential for WCPF and the long term sustainability of our work to protect the wild camel.

SPONSORING A YOUNG WILD CAMEL

Seven calves were born this year (3 females and 4 males) and all are healthy and in good condition. A huge thank you to all the young captive wild camel calf Sponsors and a very special thank you to Dani Waltall, who has generously donated USD\$8,000 to sponsor the remaining four wild camels born in April 2017. She now proudly has her own herd at the breeding centre! We are expecting another 5/6 births in the spring of 2018. So if you want to sponsor a captive wild camel calf please contact me direct. There is a sponsorship form on the website. Sponsorship of a young wild camel at the Breeding Centre, covers vaccines, veterinary advice, hay and medicines. Sponsors please remember your annual payment, is due on 1st **March of** each year.

LEGACIES

WCPF has received several bequests in Wills, from wild camel supporters. All bequests WCPF receive are spent either directly at the breeding centre or to fund wild camel research. 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 generous support that we are able to achieve so much.

GIVE SOMEONE A WCPF MEMBERSHIP AS A GIFT

Members can buy gifts by going to SHOP on the website www.wildcamels.com and orders should be sent directly to me at harecamel@aol.com . Postage always presents a problem, however, by sending the order directly to me, I can respond with the exact cost of postage. We will send a pack of 6 free wild camel postcards to those of you who recruit a new member.

Very best wishes

John Hare OBE
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