

# THE WILD CAMEL PROTECTION FOUNDATION

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**November 2018 - Newsletter Number 41**

**Dear Wild Camel Supporter**

## **New Developments**

A number of very positive developments have occurred since my last newsletter. In Newsletter number 39, I explained about the significance of the wild camel workshop, which was held at the Wild Camel Headquarters in Benenden in early December 2017. The results following on from that workshop are as follows:

### **1. Prague Zoo ([www.zoopraha.cz/en](http://www.zoopraha.cz/en))**

Dr. Adiya Yadamsuren (Adiya) and I paid a visit to Prague Zoo in April 2018 and met the Director, Mr. Miroslav Bobek, and the Vice-director, Dr. Jaroslav Simek. Prague Zoo have signed an Agreement with the Mongolian Ministry of Nature and Environment to undertake conservation project work in the Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area "A". They have extensive experience working with the re-introduction of the Prjewalski wild horse (Takhi) into Gobi "B" Reserve and want to extend their conservation work in Mongolia. They have agreed to work closely with WCPF on any projects in GGSPA "A" which relate to the remnant population of wild camels there. As a result of our visit and the follow-up discussions, WCPF signed a co-operation agreement with Prague Zoo on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. The areas of co-operation will include advice on the management of the wild camel population at the Zakhyn Us breeding centre, the design and lay-out of any future breeding centre, advice on plans for captive-bred wild camels to be released into the Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area "A" (GGSPA "A", wild camel habitat), cooperation with WCPF on all matters relating to the wild camel population in GGSPA "A" and cooperation on all educational and public awareness projects local to the GGSPA 'A' and the Breeding Centre.

### **2. Knowsley Safari ([www.knowsleysafariexperience.co.uk](http://www.knowsleysafariexperience.co.uk))**

Knowsley Safari, a wildlife park based near Manchester has supported WCPF for some time. They keep Bactrian camels there and also have extensive experience of species conservation work with the highly endangered Western Derby Eland. They were interested in co-operating with us and providing advice on the management of the Breeding Centre. We are pleased to announce that WCPF signed an agreement with Knowsley Safari in September 2018. They will provide training to appropriate WCPF staff, comprehensive advice on all veterinary matters and services and management and welfare advice on the captive wild camels at the Zakhyn Us breeding centre. They will also advise on micro-chipping and ear tagging of all captive wild camels. If a second enclosure is agreed then they will also provide advice on its construction and wild camel management at the new site, as well as providing veterinary services for wild camels which will be kept there.

### **3. Yorkshire Wildlife Park ([www.yorkshirewildlifepark.com](http://www.yorkshirewildlifepark.com))**

Our application for funding has been successful and YWP has prepared a Memorandum of Understanding. The funding from YWP will provide funding for WCPF's project to establish a permanent Environmental Educational Centre and develop educational projects with Mongolian schools in the area surrounding the GGSPA "A" and the Zakhyn Us Breeding Centre over a four-year-period. This is a magnificent gesture and we are extremely grateful.

### **4. Dr Adiya Yadamsuren**

As stated in the last newsletter, the co-operation with Dr. Adiya Yadamsuren started in January 2018 with an Agreement being signed between WCPF and WCPF Mongolia NGO of which he is the Director. He is now travelling down to the Breeding Centre on a regular basis, implementing sections of the WCPF 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 with Dr Jaroslav Simek on a date base for the Breeding Centre Studbook in a Sparks system. A study of the genetics of the captive wild camels which will form part of Anna's PhD.

### **5. Anna Jemmett**

WCPF is absolutely delighted to announce that Anna has been accepted by the University of Kent to undertake a PhD on wild camels starting on January 11th 2019. Her Supervisor will be Professor Jim Groombridge. Dr. John Ewen, Senior Research Fellow to the Zoological Society of London will also be one of her supervisors. WCPF has agreed to fund the cost of the PhD and has now signed a Finance Agreement with the University. The findings from this PhD will be included in the long term Wild Camel Management Plan for Mongolia. Thank

you to the two Patrons who have generously supported this PhD Fund.

## **MONGOLIA**

### **Field Survey**

Adiya Yadamsuren and Anna Jemmett from WCPF and Bridget Johnson and Leanne Kinsella from Knowsley Safari together with Dr. John Ewen, visited the breeding centre in September this year and their advice and suggestions for improving the fencing and the welfare of the captive wild camels is highly beneficial to WCPF. The following is an abbreviated version of their respective reports:

### **September Visit Reports**

A small boundary wall has been constructed around the WCPF building and “ger” (Mongolian tent), this stops the parking of vehicles too close to the accommodation. An outdoor covered area has also been constructed.

The fence was checked thoroughly by the Knowsley team. Knowsley will provide a full fence inspection report. There is some necessary work required before the 2018 breeding season and Adiya and WCPF herdsman Trogerdene made the measurements, which will be required for an internal fence. The internal fence will be constructed to separate rutting bulls at the breeding centre.

Bridget and Leanne from Knowsley conducted a training session with the herders at Zakhyn Us and ear tagged two of the young camels. These were a 2017 and a 2018 born calf.

From the 21<sup>st</sup> until the 26<sup>th</sup> of September Adiya Yadamsuren, John Ewen and Anna Jemmett travelled into the GGSPA “A” (Gobi “A”). The aim of the expedition was to collect samples for genetic analysis and to gain a better understanding of the park for future scientific work.

Samples were collected in the form of: 151 wild camel faecal samples, 17 wild camel hair samples and 11 wolf faecal samples. Collecting camel samples was the main aim of the expedition. Wolf samples collected were opportunistic and could be used to study the diet of one of the Gobi’s top predators.

A positive find from the trip was an area that had been used by camels to sleep overnight. After spotting wild camels the previous night, they went to the area where they thought they had been. There they found urine marks and tracks and signs of sleeping animals. As they were all still visible it was possible to identify samples for individual animals. 26 samples were collected.

During the expedition they had two different sightings of wild camels. The first was a distant view of a group of a minimum size of 12 and the second was a lone male. Wild camel carcasses were found at 5 different locations. Adiya sampled the teeth to discover the age at which the animals died.

Key Outcomes from Knowsley

- 22 captive wild camels individually profiled
- 2 captive wild camels ear tagged and herders given initial training into use of taggers
- Fence line at Zakhyn Us breeding centre mapped with faults highlighted
- Wild Camel prospectus created for future behavioural/social network study

### **Prague Zoo - Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area 'A'**

Mr Bobek and Dr Simek visited the both Gobi 'A' and 'B' in June this year. Prague Zoo discussed with the Gobi "A" Director a project to improve communications at Gobi 'A'. Email connection and mobile telephone reception is very difficult, often impossible. Prague Zoo has also purchased 8 new motorbikes for use by the rangers at GGSPA "A". This will improve their ability to manage the large area of the protected area more effectively. WCPF has purchased a GPS for each ranger and Dr. Adiya Yadamsuren will start a training programme in the spring of 2019 when Anna Jemmett is out there. The rangers once trained will then assist in wild camel sightings and data collection using the GPS.

### **CHINA**

This positive report has been received from Dr Yuan Lei, the Director of the Lop Nur Wild Camel National Nature Reserve in China, which WCPF helped the Chinese to establish in 2003.

*Reserve management is going better and better than before. China policy support the reserve management bureau to strengthen supervise and management in the reserve. Wildlife's habitat has been recovery to original environmental. Recently, we have done:*

1. *Human activities' quit*

*According to China government's policies, local government take practical action to stop mine's human activities and stop any mine development in the reserve. All miner have been request to leave the reserve.*

2. *Mine's environmental recovery*

*After stop mine development in the reserve, all mine's damage environmental have been recovery. All ore stacks have been bulldozed and all ore pits have been filled up. Local governments spent nearly six months to do it. At present, nearly all ore stacks and pits have been done even if it was developed thirty years ago.*

3. *Tourists were forbidden go inside to animal's mainly habitat*

*Because tourists activity disturb animal's habitat, especially disturb wild camel's habitat at their breeding season. The reserve bureau punished some tourists' activities in several cases and issued announcement to banned go inside the Lop Nur reserve. Any illegal activities who want to go inside the reserve will be punished.*

#### *4. Public awareness education*

*Keeping public awareness education in around the reserve this year. The reserve has done using weChat social networking platform to public. Lop Nur wild camel reserve bureau apply and set a newspaper columnist and published a series of short articles on wild camel's protection. This year the reserve will keep hold education in school, communities, supermarket, etc.*

## **DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING**

### **Fund-raising Walk, a Haircut and a Marathon**

**Rosa Nielsen**, a Bactrian camel zoo-keeper at Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark ([www.copenhagenzoo.com](http://www.copenhagenzoo.com)) successfully completed her Camino walk from France across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostella during the months of April and May, to raise money for the WCPF to buy a motorbike for use by the breeding centre. She raised the incredible amount of £2,500 which will not only buy a motorbike, but cover the cost of fuel for a year. A huge thanks to Rosa and to her many generous supporters.

More thanks goes to **Miles Price**, a camel keeper from **Hobbledown** ([www.hobbledown.com](http://www.hobbledown.com)) a children's adventure farm park in Surrey, UK who raised almost £500 when he shaved all the hair of his head to help the wild camels. Well done, Miles, and many thanks from the wild camels.

**Nadia Erdenesuren** a Mongolian living in England completed the Great North Run to raise funds for the critically endangered wild camel in her country. Nadia raised the splendid figure of £548 and exceeded her target figure of £500. Well done, Nadia, and THANK YOU on behalf of the wild camels and the Wild Camel Protection Foundation. The money raised will be put towards the construction of a new enclosure where young wild camels can be held prior to their release into the Gobi desert.

Individual gestures like Rosa's, Miles's and Nadia's give a huge stimulus and inspiration to our work to save the critically endangered wild camel.

Very well done to all of you.

**Dudley Zoological Gardens** ([dudleyzoo.org.uk](http://dudleyzoo.org.uk)) has sent the Wild Camel Protection Foundation £400 as proceeds from their activities on our behalf on World Camel Day last June. We are most grateful and this sum will be used for improvements

at the captive wild camel breeding centre. In addition an increasing number of individuals, Trusts, Foundations, and Zoos are supporting our work. We are extremely grateful for their dedication in giving the WCPF long-term support. Without these wonderful supporters, we could not operate.

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

### **WEBSITE, TWITTER and FACEBOOK**

Many thanks 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.

Lucy McLean, a Scottish schoolgirl has volunteered, as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award, to set up a junior page on our website and to communicate, in cooperation with Anna, to junior wild camel supporters. We are also hoping to link her and her school in Scotland to a Mongolian school(s) near the GGSPA "A" in Mongolia.

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 very 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](http://www.wildcamels.com); [www.facebook.com/WildCamels](http://www.facebook.com/WildCamels); [www.twitter.com/WildCamels](http://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](http://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**

Five calves were born this year (all males). 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](http://www.wildcamels.com) and orders should be sent directly to me at [harecamel@aol.com](mailto: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**  
**Wild Camel Protection Foundation Head Office,**  
**School Farm, Benenden, Kent TN17 4EU**  
[www.wildcamels.com](http://www.wildcamels.com);  
[www.johnhare.org.uk](http://www.johnhare.org.uk)

Some of you may not know that I have published books on the wild camel covering my many adventures with camels in Central Asia and Africa and on the time I spent in remote parts of Africa. The titles are:

**The Lost Camels of Tartary** (paperback) £11.00 plus £2.22 postage

Describes my early expeditions into China and Mongolia researching the wild camel when I was first person to enter the former nuclear test area of China (wild camel habitat) for 45 years. We had numerous adventures.

**The Mysteries of the Gobi** (hardback) £20.00 plus £3.00 postage

Describes other expeditions in Lop Nur, China and the establishment of the wild camel reserve in China's former nuclear test area in China. Also the discovery of a group of wild animals, which had never been seen by man and the discovery of a lookout post in the Gobi, which had been missed by the early explorers.

**Shadows across the Sahara** (hardback) £15.00 plus postage £3.00

Describes my 1,20432 mile journey across the Sahara on a Dromedary camel which lasted for three and a half months in the company of a Chinese professor, the father of Yuan Lei and a 78-year-old rancher from Kenya. The journey was made without any back-up except for a satellite phone.

**Last Man In** (paperback) £15.00 plus postage £2.22

Describes my early days as the last recruit as a District Officer in Northern Nigeria and the Cameroons. I was involved in many complex tribal and pre-independence issues in the remotest parts of Nigeria or indeed West Africa (no roads). Part of the mountainous area has formed the background to the iniquitous operations of present-day Boko Haram.

**All these books are available from John Hare at School Farm, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4EU**