

# AZA Mid-Year Caprinae TAG Update

## Virtual Meeting 23 March 2021



ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS



# TAG Leadership

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**Chair** Gil Myers, Smithsonian National Zoo  
**Vice-Chair** Vacant

## Steering Committee:

Tim Thier-Secretary

Dawn Petefish

Steve Castillo

Dan Beetem

Josh Sisk

Molly Shea

**Ashley Arimborgo**

**Jim Haigwood**

St. Louis Zoo

Peoria Zoo

Disney's Animal Kingdom

The Wilds

Potawatomi Zoo

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance





# TAG Leadership

## Advisors:

Erin Kendrick

National Zoo

Nutrition

Budhan Pukazhenti

SCBI

Research & Reproduction

Jeff Holland

CCTU

Field Conservation & Husbandry

Vacant

Veterinary

John Newby

SCF

Aoudad Conservation



# Chinese Goral STATS

- **Gil Myers Studbook Keeper and Program Leader**  
Smithsonian's National Zoo  
[myersg@si.edu](mailto:myersg@si.edu)
- **AZA Red Program**  
Regional Studbook January 2018  
Breeding & Transfer Plan March 2020
- **Current Managed Population**  
9.16 (25) in 9 AZA zoos
- **Target Population**  
50
- **What's been happening**
  - Poor breeding success
  - Population declining since 2005
  - AZA interest high, but animals unavailable



# Desert Bighorn STATS

- **VACANT**

Maureen McCarty recently retired as Studbook Keeper and Program Leader

- **AZA YELLOW Program**

Regional Studbook December 2020

SSP Breeding & Transfer Plan October 2019

- **Current Managed Population**

28.41 (69) in 6 AZA and 2 non-AZA

- **Target Population**

100

- **What's been happening**

-Wild-caught male from the Arizona Game and Fish Department entered managed population in 2020 to booster genetic health





# Turkmenian Markhor STATS

- **Seth Groesbeck Studbook Keeper and Program Leader**

Rosamond Gifford Zoo

[sethgroesbeck@ongov.net](mailto:sethgroesbeck@ongov.net)

- **AZA YELLOW Program**

Regional Studbook July 2020

SSP Breeding & Transfer Plan November 2018

- **Current Managed Population**

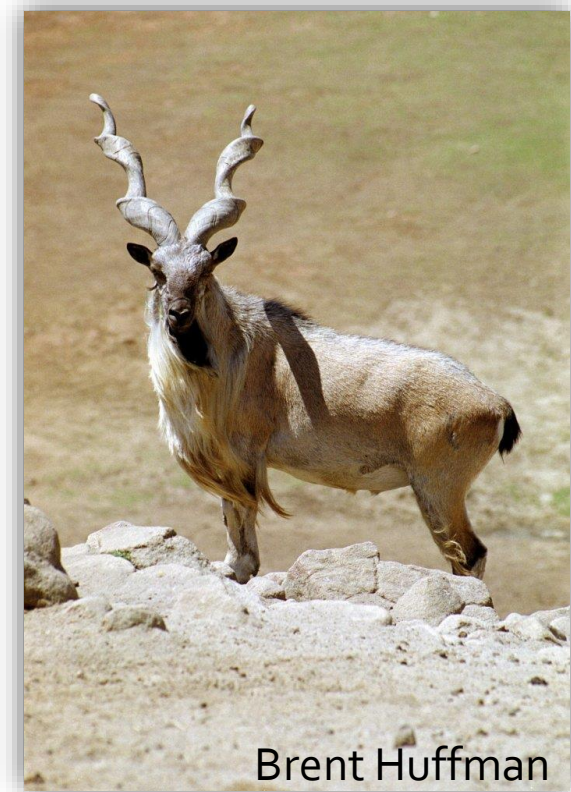
46.76 (122) in 9 AZA and 4 non-AZA

- **Target Population**

115

- **What's been happening**

-Compliance with SSP recommendations necessary for a demographic stable population and within target capacity



Brent Huffman

# Nubian Ibex STATS

- **Ashley Arimborgo Interim Studbook Keeper and Program Leader**

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

[aarimgorgo@cmzoo.org](mailto:aarimgorgo@cmzoo.org)

- **AZA RED Program**

Regional Studbook February 2019

SSP Breeding & Transfer Plan July 2020

- **Current Managed Population**

10.8 (18) in 3 AZA

16.15 (31) in 5 non-AZA

- **Target Population**

75

- **What's been happening**

- Three AZA institutions phased out species within the last 2 years

- Demographic sustainability no longer viable

- Studbook keeper working with current private partners and establishing new partners for possible consortium



Julie Larsen



# Sichuan Takin STATS

- **Dave Bernier Studbook Keeper and Program Leader**

Lincoln Park Zoo

[dbernier@lpzoo.org](mailto:dbernier@lpzoo.org)

- **AZA YELLOW Program**

Regional Studbook December 2019

SSP Breeding & Transfer Plan January 2020

- **Current Managed Population**

65.76 (141) in 20 AZA

26.27.4 (57) in 10 non-AZA

- **Target Population**

150

- **What's been happening**

- Favored AZA caprid with long-term managing prospect

- Population growing, but important to reduce rate to prevent growth beyond holding capacity

- Demographically stable

- Strong need to overcome roadblocks allowing importation to Canada





# Transcaspiian Urial STATS

- **Jon Rolfs Studbook Keeper and Program Leader**

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

[jrolfs@sdzwr.org](mailto:jrolfs@sdzwr.org)

- **AZA Red Program**

Regional Studbook November 2020

SSP Breeding & Transfer Plan January 2020

- **Current Managed Population**

14.33 (47) in 5 AZA

Large number held in non-AZA

- **Target Population**

60

- **What's been happening**

-Prospect of adding new AZA holders did not work out

-Holding capacity challenging from year to year. Every other breeding cycle practiced in order to control numbers



Jon Rolfs

# Rocky Mountain Goat STATS

- **Peter Grimm Studbook Keeper**  
Oregon Zoo  
[grimm@oregonzoo.org](mailto:grimm@oregonzoo.org)

- **AZA CANDIDATE Program**

- **Current Managed Population**  
10.22 (32) in 7 AZA

- **Target Population**  
25

- **What's been happening**
  - Population increasing
  - 16 kids relocated into AZA zoos in 2018/2019 as part of the translocation project removing animals from the Olympic Mountains to the Cascades through the National Park Service
  - Determine long term viability within the framework of new SSP
  - Future population planning to be determined





# Kordofan Aoudad STATS

- **Molly Shea Studbook Keeper and Program Leader**

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

[mollys@fossilrim.org](mailto:mollys@fossilrim.org)

- **AZA Red Program**

Regional Studbook November 2017

SSP Breeding & Transfer Plan November 2017

- **Current Managed Population**

24.28 (52) in 6 AZA

- **Target Population**

75





# Kordofan Aoudad STATS

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- **What's been happening**

- TAG has decided to phase out the Kordofan aoudad *Ammotragus lervia blainei* subspecies program.
- Planned outcrossing breeding study to evaluate the impact of adding generic aoudad (possibly *A.l. sahariensis*) genetics into a sample group of Kordofan aoudad did not materialize.
- Recent genetic work has supported the TAG decision to phase out this subspecies.
  - \* Emily Wright at Texas Tech University
  - \* “Assessment of Genetic Variation in Aoudad: Implications for Disease Transmission”
  - \* Results show that Kordofan and the generic aoudad are genetically very similar and may all fall under *A.l.sahariensis*.
  - \* Results question the true subspecies of the 4 founder *A.l.blainei* out of the Khartoum Zoo in Sudan
- Recommending current holders use attrition or begin making plans that works best for animals and institution.
- Monitor ‘subspecies’ with studbook so we know where animals will transfer



# Other STATS

## Armenian Mouflon

- **Seth Groesbeck Studbook Keeper**  
Rosamond Gifford Zoo  
[sethgroesbeck@ongov.net](mailto:sethgroesbeck@ongov.net)
- **AZA MONITOR Program**
- **Current Managed Population**  
Roughly 20 in 1 non-AZA
- **Target Population**  
0



## Japanese Serow

**Brandi Clark**  
Roosevelt Park Zoo  
[bclarkrpz@snt.com](mailto:bclarkrpz@snt.com)

### AZA PHASE OUT

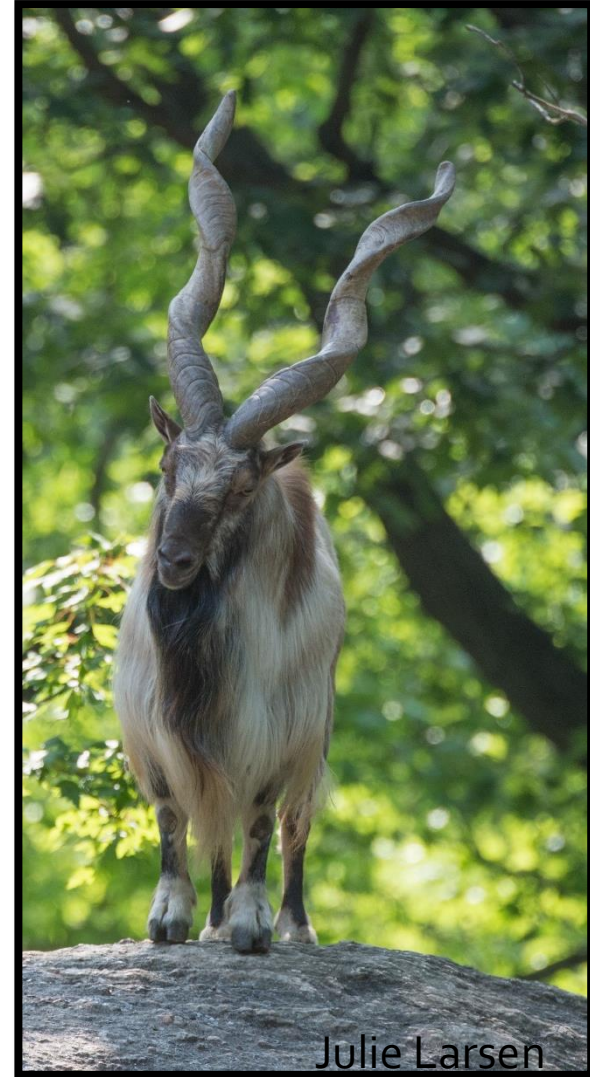
**Current Population**  
5.7 (12) in 4 AZA

**Target Population**  
0



# TAG GOALS

- TAG steering committee continue assessing AZA caprid populations under the new APM criteria
- Potentially publish a new RCP prior to 2024 to fit the new SSP model and better suit our populations
- Collaborate with EAZA Caprinae TAG RCP published November 2020
- Build on C2S2, SPA and others interested in collaborating with caprid species
- Identify Education Advisor to help promote caprid diversity and their need for conservation
- Identify new in-situ Conservation programs





# Thank You!

