

INTERNATIONAL TAKHI GROUP

Re-Introduction Project Great Gobi B Annual Report 2012



International Takhi Group

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Editorial

2012 will be valued as a successful year for the International Takhi Group, the main event clearly being the celebration of 20 years of Takhi-re-introduction in Mongolia.

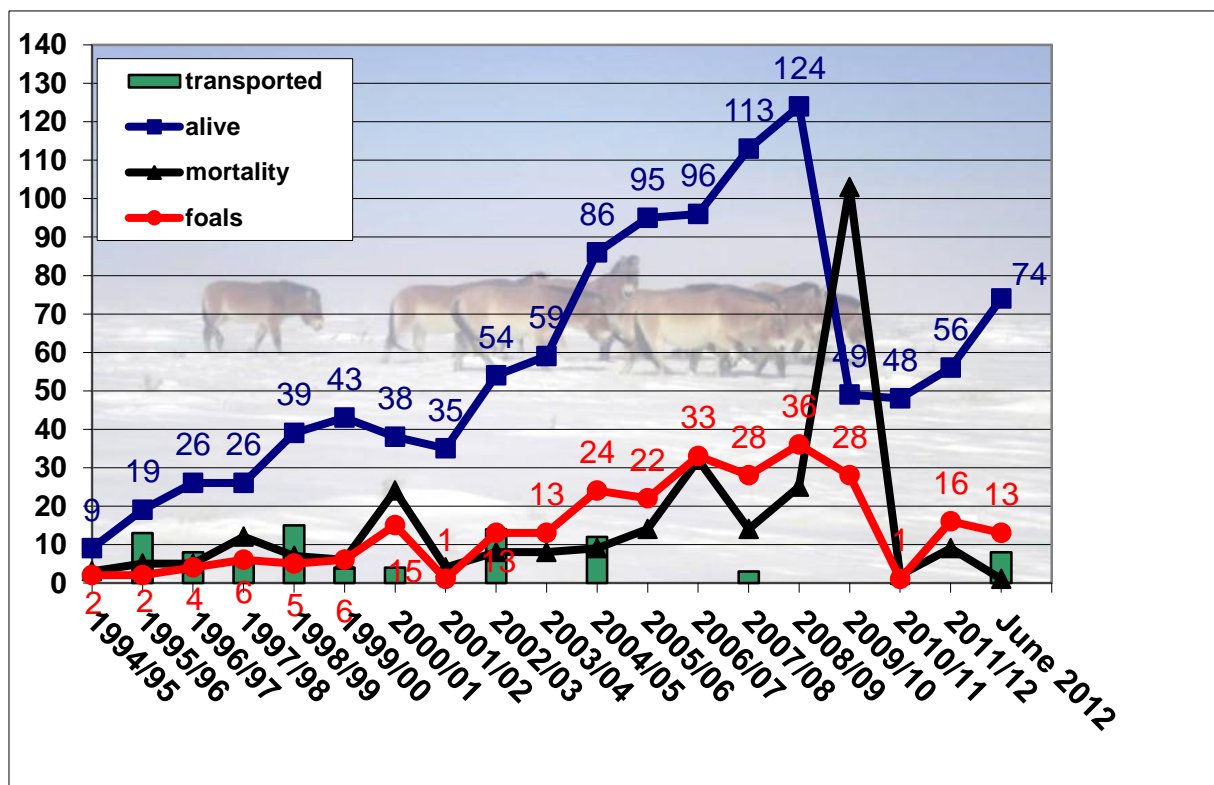
Sustainable environmental protection on a political basis can only be achieved from bottom-up which in Asia is called „direct democracy for nature protection“. The Takhi should become even more of a leading figure to help the local people, the nomads and the authorities in the pursuit of their goal: the protection of the Great Gobi B SPA. The anniversary celebrations however had an important impact on the perception of the Takhis and the protection of their environment in Ulan Baatar as well as in the provinces and villages.

Thomas Pfisterer, President

Report

Population Development

The Takhi population developed very well in 2012 with 13 foals surviving throughout the whole area. In May four stallions from the Jimsar breeding center in China were brought to Takhin Us and in August Zoo Prague organized the transport of four mares selected by the European Endangered Species Program (EEP) to Takhintal.



*Population Development of the Przewalski's horses in the Great Gobi B SPA
 Figures refer to a „horse-year“, starting annually on May 1st and ending on April 30th of the following year.*

76 Takhis at the beginning of wintertime

There are four harem-groups roaming the Gobi B, joined by the group of mares, which came to the Gobi B in 2012, and several bachelor groups of changing composition. Altogether rangers counted 76 Takhis in November 2012.

20 years of Takhi-Reintroduction

In June the three Takhi-reintroduction-projects **Takhintal**, **Hustai Nuuru** and **Homintal** celebrated their 20th anniversary. Various activities were held in Mongolia.

- Celebration of all three projects at Ulan Baatar
- Photo exhibition at Ulan Baatar
- Production of a booklet titled “*Takhi back to the Wild – 20 years of Takhi reintroduction in Mongolia*” in English and Mongolian.



Development in the Gobi B

In June representatives of the nomads, officials of different political organisations and the park management met for a workshop on the implementation of the Management Plan Gobi B. The 36 delegates also discussed their experiences and future perspectives. These meetings also prove to be important in order to maintain networking. First results are:

- a good cooperation within all participants
- Structures and participation develop in a positive way
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Science

In September the big International Wild Equid Conference took place at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna. It was organized by Petra Kaczensky and Jason Ransom from the group of Chris Walzer and gathered the most important experts worldwide at that place. The ITG-project was greatly appreciated and received a very positive feedback. Approval was especially given to the scientific work done by Chris Walzer and Petra Kaczensky.

International Takhi Group

Board

Thomas Pfisterer, president
Rebekka Blumer, treasurer
Christian Stauffer, executive secretary
Chris Walzer, research coordinator
Ruth Baumgartner
Sven Hoffmann
Anita Fahrni
Evzen Kus
Reinhard Schnidrig

The board works on a voluntary basis. ITG maintains an office at Ulan Baatar and manages the Great Gobi B Strictly Protected Area (SPA) together with the Mongolian government.

Mongolian Office

Enksaikhan N., Manager

Employees at the SPA

Ganbaatar O., Director
Altansukh N., Camp Manager
Baatarsuren D., Senior Ranger
Nisekhkhuu G., Ranger
Chinbat B., Ranger
Batsuuri B., Ranger
Baast Z., Ranger
Oinbayar L., Ranger
Amgalan Ya., Ranger
Ganbataa H., Ranger
Altantseseg E., Veterinarian-assistant

Media

„Die Rückkehr des Takhi“ by Gabriela Frischknecht, edited by Schweizer Tierschutzverlag, is quite entertaining and is enjoyed by young and old.

WAZA-magazine, the official gazette of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums shows an elaborate article on the ITG-project in Volume 13/2012.

<http://www.waza.org/en/site/marketing-media/publications-1264077522>