



Sihlwald and Gattikon, August 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

To the members of the  
**ITG - International Takhi Group**

### **Minutes of the General Assembly of the ITG for the year 2019**

Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 2020, 6:00 — 7:30 pm at Veterinary Department of the Canton of Zurich, Zollstrasse 20, 8090 Zürich

Present: Reinhard Schnidrig, Christian Stauffer, Anita Fahrni, Sven Hoffmann, Honorary President Thomas Pfisterer, Irena Valaskova (Prague Zoo), Thomas Rothlin (Wildpark Bruderhaus Winterthur), Jörg Beckmann (Zoo Nuremberg), Ruth Baumgartner.

Excused: Rebekka Blumer, Karin Hindenlang, Jaroslav Simek, Miroslav Bobek, O. Ganbaatar and Helmut Mägdefrau (Zoo Nuremberg).

President Reinhard Schnidrig welcomed the members of the International Takhi Group and is pleased that despite the current Corona pandemic, the General Assembly of ITG could be carried out. He thanks especially the guests from Prague Zoo, Nuremberg Zoo and Bruderhaus Winterthur Wildlife Park for coming and thanks everybody for their help which led to a very successful and busy 2019. His thanks go especially to Rebekka Blumer for her extraordinary engagement for ITG. Not only the financial work but also her work in organization and preparation are highly valued.

The agenda of the General Assembly of the ITG for the year 2019 is accepted.

#### **1. Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of the General Assembly of the ITG of July 21<sup>st</sup> 2019 are accepted.

#### **2. Annual report 2019 of the President**

The president reports from his detailed annual report, which was thankfully translated into English by Anita Fahrni.

The President goes through the annual report (see Annex), which is divided into the foreword and 5 chapters. Selected topics are briefly listed as follows:

- Foreword with important topics from the last year:**

- o It is with great pleasure that the President comments on the success of the doubling in size of the Great Gobi B Reserve, which was approved by the Great Chural, the Parliament of Mongolia on May 2, 2019. With this extension to the east and west, the park for the first time encloses the entire area used previously by the takhi and it is supplemented with valuable habitats - steppes, semi-deserts, saxaul forests and mountain pastures. This is a great success for nature conservation, which is jointly



supported by the Ministry of Environment in Mongolia. The decision of the Great Chural is also groundbreaking for other decision-makers around the world who support and promote the protection of intact ecosystems of supranational importance.

- **The horse and its habitat:**

- At the end of 2019, 276 takhi were living in the reserve. A special event was that two takhi siblings left the reserve and returned in late autumn. During their expedition they were regularly located and observed by the rangers and could finally be driven back.
- In spring Prague Zoo again transported 3 takhi to Mongolia. These horses came from Prague Zoo, Dobrejow Zoo and the Bison Enclosure Springe and were selected on the basis of the stud book of the European Conservation Breeding Programme (EEP).
- The stay of the two takhi outside the protected area, the further planning of the stock and the extension of the protected area, to name but a few of the issues, requires a well-planned and coordinated cooperation among all parties involved. This is laid down in the so-called Management Plan for the years 2020 - 2023, which forms the basis for the necessary considerations and activities.
- After several years of planning under the direction of Rebekka Blumer and the construction management of Batsukh Jamiyandorj, the National Park House was modernized, in particular by bringing running water into the house for the kitchen as well as for showers and toilets. This successful project now enables a significant improvement in the living and working conditions at the camp site in Takhin tal.

- **Cooperation with politics and research:**

- The contract with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in Mongolia and the regular exchange with the Mongolian authorities are very important for the work of ITG in Mongolia.
- But also the cooperation with other organizations like CAMI (Central Asia Mammal Initiative, part of the Convention for the Protection of Migrating Species CMS) is valuable and important. The President of ITG in his role as Focal Point for the Wild Horse took part in the third workshop in Ulanbaatar, accompanied by the young Takhi researcher Dalaitseren from the Mongolian ITG-Team.

- **Informing the public:**

- At this point, reference is made to the ITG website, where the regularly published Takhi Post and publications are listed at [www.savethewildhorse.org](http://www.savethewildhorse.org). The President takes the opportunity to thank Peter Kistler for his great voluntary work in creating the Takhi Post twice a year and points out that a further copy will soon be published outside the regular schedule.

- **Finances:**

- Thanks to membership fees, donations and support from various foundations, funds could be invested in the management of the protected area, the monitoring of the takhi and in research.

The ITG board accepts the annual report of the president by acclamation.



### **3. Annual financial report 2019**

#### **Invoice 2019:**

Details are presented in the slides of the Annual General Assembly (see Annex). The comparison of 2019 and 2018 is presented.

ITG received contributions from members, donations, and the support of foundations for a total of CHF. 79'145. The money was invested in the management of the protected area, the monitoring of the takhi and in research. Due to the very high investments to the improvement of the infrastructure of the park house, the association ITG ends the year with an expenditure surplus of CHF 83'981. At the end of the fiscal year, the available funds are CHF 28'925.

The report of the auditor Peter Haller is available.

#### **Budget 2020:**

Details are presented to the Annual General Assembly (see Annex):

- Restrictions had to be made in the 2020 budget, as the uncertainty in the current corona situation is likely to lead to lower revenue and therefore probably not all desired expenditures can be realized. In addition, some projects had to be postponed to 2021. The expected deficit will be vigorously counteracted by continuing to publish the Takhi Post, maintaining contacts with foundations and calling on everyone to help generate donations and further support.

The financial report and the balance of 2019, based on the auditory report as well as the budget for 2020 are unanimously accepted and the great work of Rebekka Blumer is honored with acclamation.

### **4. Granting discharge to the ITG Board**

The ITG board unanimously is granted discharge.

### **5. Approval of the activities 2020**

Details are presented on the slides of the Annual General Assembly in the Annex. Since the year has long since begun, many activities are already underway.

The activities are unanimously accepted

### **6. Agreement on the annual fee 2020 (CHF 500.00 / Euro 500.00)**

The ITG board unanimously accepts the annual fee of CHF 500.00 / Euro 500.00 for zoos and organizations.

### **7. Elections**

No elections are due.

### **8. Applications / requests from members**



No applications have been submitted.

#### **9. Varia**

9.1 Report on latest news from Takhin tal:

- Batsukh reports by August 7<sup>th</sup> (see Annex)
- Ganbaatar reports by August 10<sup>th</sup> (see Annex) .
- It is unclear whether the Covid-19 pandemic has reached Takhin Tal.
- At the moment the exhibition 'World of Dinosaurs' is being shown in Geuensee, Switzerland where the takhi is shown as well.

9.2 The next General Assembly takes place on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2021.

For the minutes of the ITG - International Takhi Group

Reinhard Schnidrig  
President of the ITG

Ruth Baumgartner  
Actuary of the ITG



## APPENDIX

Annual Report in German (see separate insert)  
Annual Report in English (see separate insert)  
Slides General Assembly 2020 (see separate insert)

### **Report from Batsukh (January-July, 2020)**

1. Program work:
  - a. GGBSPA garage renovation was completed by April-May 2020 / appr. 3 million MNT/. Roof, doors changed and floor cemented as well walls.
  - b. Demarcation has been started / poles are ordered, purchased in Khovd aimag center, and delivered to TT and Altai soum. Installation was started by beginning of August. It is planned to be completed by Autumn.
  - c. Sign-boards /materials were purchased in May, sign-board text design will be completed and printed by next week/. Totally 30 sign boards.
  - d. Water project related. Amount of the project: SDC – 200 million MNT, ITG 53 million MNT. The project was started on March 15, 2020.
  - e. Purchase of water equipment, contracting and transport to TT
  - f. Contracting researchers from MAS and Khovd University
  - g. First WS and first two field trips are completed from three trips planned in 2020.
  - h. Probes/ samplings (from 104 water points and two lakes are delivered to laboratories/ first results are received/.
2. Public awareness and communication
  - a. Takhi Post May 2020 is printed in Mongolian.
  - b. Post card printed /Takhi at Guntamga/
3. Office:
  - a. Moved to new room / same building, same floor/
  - b. Dalai is working in TT
  - c. Khandam/ marketing manager/ resigning her job starting 30 August, 2020/.

### **Report from Ganbaa:**

1. About takhi's;
  - At the moment 313 horses should be surviving in the Great Gobi B and other places. Because 5 young mares and 1 foal missed since a different time. We repeat counting 46 foals in the different harem.
  - Probably Erhes harem is decreasing in number. We registered 3 members who joined the Tamir harem from Erhes harem. Unfortunately we have not seen the Erhes stallion or some part of his harem since July 15.



- Last foal was born in the Ajnai harem of Takhi us on August 02. Foal mother is Altai/4690/ and father is Khovd from China in 2012.

2. About summer and pasture situation;

Summer and pasture situations are changing during this time. But the general situation of pasture is good, even in the Gobi area. Beginning of summer around Takhiin tal to Barlag pasture situation is really good. But after mid of July Khonin us to Takhi us pasture is really good. Otherwise around Takhiin tal is getting worse/very yellow/ than beginning.

3. About other work;

Altansukh and rangers finished 60 poles fixed in the ground just yesterday. The Remaining 35 poles will fix in the ground next two weeks together with sign-boards.

Altansukh will send you some recent photos in this email.

best regards

Ganbaatar