

23rd Annual meeting

SAHEL & SAHARA INTEREST GROUP

30 April - 2 May 2024

Agadir, Morocco



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Background

The Sahel & Sahara Interest Group was born in 2000 on the back of a meeting organized by the Convention on Migratory Species in Djerba, Tunisia, to adopt an action plan for endangered Sahelo-Saharan antelopes as a response to the alarming extinction crisis facing the wildlife of the region. Results of the workshop included the establishment of a Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG) as an informal, action and information-sharing forum to drive and monitor work going forwards.

Since then, the meeting has become an annual forum bringing together hundreds of conservation practitioners and organizations to share their work on Sahelian and Saharan species and habitats, and creating a unique and powerful network of actors from all walks of society and from all range states.

Beyond the Sahel and the Sahara, SSIG interests extend to all types of arid lands fauna, flora, and traditional land-use practices necessary for the maintenance of healthy and productive desert ecosystems.

22
MEETINGS



+1000
PARTICIPANTS



37
COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



+500
PRESENTATIONS

The conference

Facilitated by Sahara Conservation, the meeting promotes collaboration and the sharing of solutions that seek to improve outcomes for biodiversity and society throughout the Sahara and the Sahel, ranging from grass roots conservation to influencing national and international policy and decision-making. Equally important, is encouraging and enabling the next generation change-makers by providing opportunities for emerging conservation researchers and actors to present their work, and engage with established leaders in their fields.

Participants represent a wide range of stakeholders with an interest in people and the natural world across the region, including universities and research centres, zoological institutions, museums, and non-governmental organisations, together with statutory and inter-governmental agencies.

Over a hundred participants from more than 20 countries, committed to actively sharing information, resources, and skills, attend the event every year.

This year's edition

The 2024 meeting will be hosted by the Moroccan Agence Nationale des Eaux et Forêts in Agadir. As a country committed to protecting the biodiversity of arid environments, Morocco has hosted the event twice in Agadir, in 2003 and 2013.

The meeting will be structured around the following cross-cutting themes, focused on the Sahara and the Sahel:

- Understanding the influence of climate change, geopolitics, security, and socioeconomics on conservation efforts.
- Enhancing conservation impact: resourcing, leadership capacity, governance, and grassroots organizations
- Models for effective protected area and landscape management.
- Complementary approaches for monitoring and ensuring health in people, animals and the environment.
- Biology, *in situ* and *ex situ* management, and recovery of threatened species.
- Human-wildlife interactions and community engagement.

Want to become a sponsor?

Over the years, the event has been generously sponsored by many organizations which contributed to support the logistics on site, and help cover the participation of key individuals from Sahara and Sahel range states.

We invite you to sponsor this year's conference or to exhibit your work.

As a sponsor or exhibitor, you will have the opportunity to feature your work or/and products to a vast audience of conservationists and researchers from diverse countries and organisations. Your organisation will also have great exposure to the global marketing activities of the conference, such as website page and social media posts, providing you with a unique opportunity to reach a large international audience.

We welcome all sponsorships!

Your contribution can help us cover:

5 000\$ Interpretation sponsor OR Participation for 3 students from Sub-Saharan Africa	3 000\$ Lunch sponsor OR Participation for 2 students from Sub-Saharan Africa	1 000\$ In-country transport sponsor OR PA system sponsor
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