



25th

ANNUAL MEETING

SAHEL & SAHARA INTEREST GROUP

5 - 7 May 2026

Cairo, Egypt

PROCEEDINGS



With the support of



Table of contents / Table des matières

25th MEETING OF THE SAHEL & SAHARA INTEREST GROUP	3
25^e RÉUNION DU GROUPE D'INTÉRÊT SAHEL & SAHARA	6
ABSTRACTS I RÉSUMÉS	9
DAY 1 – Tuesday 5th May 2026 Jour 1 – Mardi 5 mai 2026	9
1. Community-Centered Drought Resilience in Egypt's Nile Delta: Insights from the ABCDryBASIN Project	9!
2. Rewilding as a nature-based solution	10!
3. Managing a landscape in motion: pastoralism and conservation in Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve, Chad	10!
4. Économies rurales et aires protégées : collaboration harmonieuse ou conflit inévitable ? L'exemple des relations pastoralisme et aires protégées au Tchad	10!
5. Transhumance, translocation and transmission: diseases on the move: health impacts of animal movements on translocated and resident populations	11!
6. Oasis en renaissance : quand la collaboration devient solution	11!
7. Children and nature in Tunisia: changing the educational perspective in the Dghoumes and Bou Hedma National Park areas	12!
8. Celebrating 10 years of the return of the scimitar-horned oryx to Chad	13!
9. Réintroduction de l'oryx algazelle, de l'addax et de la gazelle dama dans la Réserve de faune de Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim, au Tchad	13!
10. Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative	13!
11. Wadi ElGimal gazelle status survey 2025, findings and results	14!
12. Drivers of distributional changes in Northeast African gazelle in the Holocene: a cross-disciplinary analysis of pharaonic gazelle iconography	14!
13. Population structure and habitat use of the dama gazelle in the Aïr mountains (Niger): conservation implications	15!
14. Behavioural and ecological traits of the dama mhorh gazelle (<i>Nanger dama mhorh</i> , Bennett 1832) under four different conservation scenarios	15!
DAY 2 – Wednesday 6 May 2026 Jour 2 – Mercredi 6 mai 2026	17
Reflecting on 25 years of SSIG	17!
1. Sustainable environmental and tourism development plan in South Sinai "balancing conservation and development"	17!
2. Réserves sahélo-sahariennes du Niger : richesses naturelles, défis de conservation et rôles clés des communautés locales	18!
3. Présentation de la Réserve Naturelle et Culturelle de l'Ennedi, Tchad	18!
4. Gestion intégrée et conservation des ressources naturelles : l'aire protégée de Beampingaratsy à Madagascar	18!
5. Projet Natur-OROA : amélioration de la gestion de la Réserve de Faune de Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim au bénéfice de la nature et des communautés	19!
6. Water resource dynamics and ecosystem response in arid environments: evidence from the Bouarfa Plain (Morocco)	19!
7. Reforestation by direct seeding in a pre-desert protected area, Dghoumes National Park, Tunisia	20!
8. Beyond tree planting: nature-based solutions supported by carbon markets in arid environments	20!
9. Sand and Dust Storms Sources, Challenges & Risk Reduction, North Africa and Arabia	21!
10. Development and management of natural rangelands to combat desertification in the Arab Republic of Egypt	22!
11. Potential utilization of halophytes and salt-tolerant crops as cash crops in salt-affected lands	22!
12. Conservation Centers for Species Survival program update	23!
13. One parasite, three worlds: Hydatidosis, a neglected One Health threat	23!
14. Mapping ecological stability of desert herbivore habitats using multi-decadal satellite observations across Egypt	24!
DAY 3 – Thursday 7 May 2026 Jour 3 – Jeudi 7 mai 2026	25
1. Suivi spatial par balises GPS des grands oiseaux sahétiens : premiers résultats et enjeux de conservation dans la Réserve de Faune de Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim, au Tchad	25!

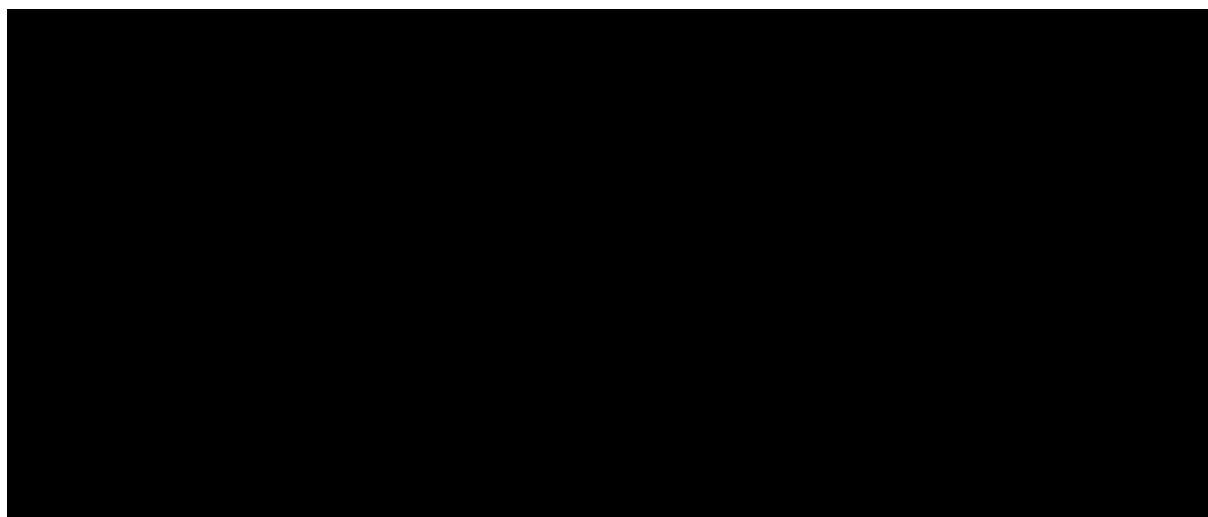
2.!	Comprehensive assessment of the Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) in North Africa: a regional synthesis	25!
3.!	Réintroduction des autruches d'Afrique du Nord dans la Réserve de Biosphère de Gadabedji, au Niger	26!
4.!	Réintroduction de l'autruche à cou rouge en Tunisie : progrès et défis critiques	27!
5.!	Black Crowned Crane Conservation in the Sahel and Northern Savannas: A Flagship for Cross-Regional Collaboration	27!
POSTERS		29
1.!	Rétablissement d'une population de buffles d'Afrique au Parc National de Siniaka-Minia après translocation massive (2022) : suivi démographique, comportemental et nutritionnel sur trois ans	29!
2.!	Temporal activity of the mhorh gazelle (<i>Nanger dama mhorh</i>) under captive conditions	29!
3.!	Identification des menaces pesant sur les vautours au Tchad : premiers résultats	30!
PARTICIPANTS		32!
PROGRAM		34!

25th MEETING OF THE SAHEL & SAHARA INTEREST GROUP

The Sahel & Sahara Interest Group (SSIG) was established in 2000 following a meeting convened by the Convention on Migratory Species in Djerba, Tunisia, to adopt an action plan for endangered Sahelo-Saharan antelopes in response to the alarming extinction crisis facing the region's wildlife. Since then, the meeting has evolved into an annual forum bringing together all those working on conservation, sustainable development, and environmental issues across the arid lands of North Africa and the Middle East.

Facilitated by the Sahara Conservation team, the SSIG meeting provides a unique opportunity for conservation practitioners and organizations to share their work on Sahelian and Saharan species and habitats, while fostering a strong network of actors from across disciplines and all range states.

For the first time, the annual SSIG meeting was held in Cairo, Egypt, made possible through the collaboration of the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), which co-organized the event with Sahara Conservation.



On the road to the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17), the 2026 SSIG meeting highlighted the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Covering nearly half of the Earth's land surface, rangelands support unique biodiversity and millions of pastoralists whose livelihoods depend upon them.

The conference opened with remarks from Dr. Raafat Misak, Emeritus Professor at the Desert Research Centre, representing the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, and Dr. Ghada Ahmadein, Program Manager at RAED.

The event brought together 66 participants from 16 countries, including representatives of grassroots conservation organizations, government agencies, NGOs, universities, and students. Over two and a half days, 32 speakers presented their work and exchanged experiences around three cross-cutting themes focused on the Sahara and the Sahel: restoring species; sustaining ecosystems, addressing the sustainable management, restoration, and conservation of protected areas, with a particular focus on desert and rangeland ecosystems; and human–wildlife interactions and ecosystem health, exploring complementary approaches for communities, wildlife, and livestock in the context of desertification.

This 25th edition marked a significant milestone, celebrating a quarter century of collaboration for conservation across the Sahel and Sahara. It provided an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of the group since its inception, its role in fostering cooperation across countries and disciplines, and how SSIG can continue to evolve while engaging the next generation of conservation professionals.

For the second time, the Wadis & Dunes Excellence Awards were presented to recognize outstanding contributions to conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable development in arid regions. Six distinguished conservationists were honored for their exceptional commitment. Congratulations to Raafat Misak, Marie Petretto, Tim Wachter, Mostafaa Al Hakeem, and to David Mallon and Philippe Chardonnet in their capacity as former co-chairs of the IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group.

The SSIG meeting provided an opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen collaboration across the region. Participants called for the sharing of experiences, technical resources, and strategies on species recovery and conservation through a dedicated platform accessible to practitioners. In the lead-up to UNCCD COP17, participants also discussed opportunities to contribute to and support related events through regional representation and engagement at the COP in Mongolia. Finally, the SSIG organizers reaffirmed their commitment to the continued organization of annual meetings, encouraging members to host, support, and contribute to future editions.

This document brings together the abstracts of the oral presentations and posters presented during the 2026 SSIG meeting.

25^e RÉUNION DU GROUPE D'INTÉRÊT SAHEL & SAHARA

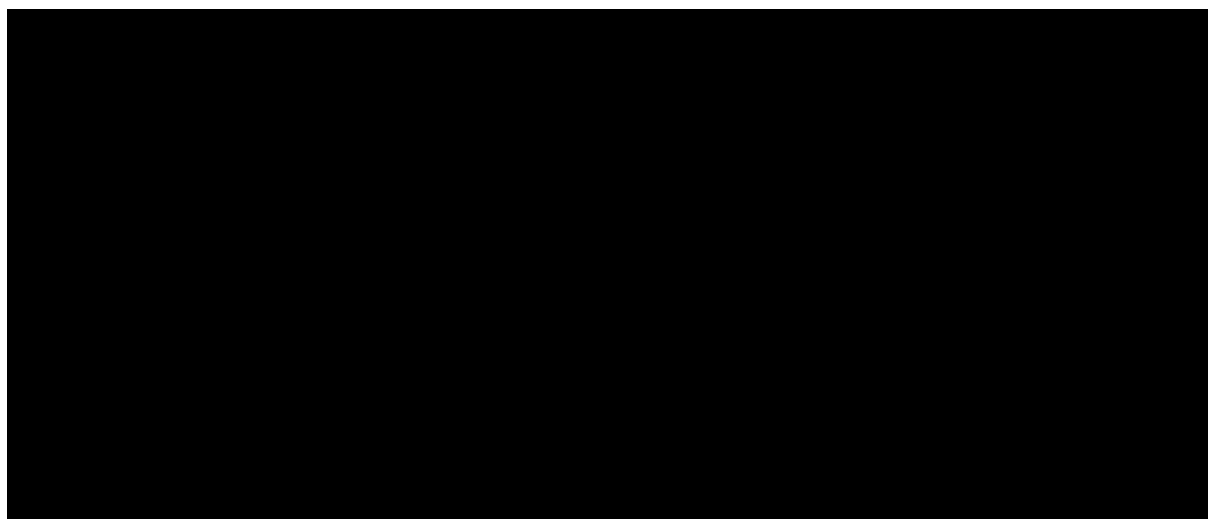
Le Groupe d'intérêt Sahel & Sahara (GISS) a été créé en 2000 à la suite d'une réunion organisée par la Convention sur les espèces migratrices (CMS) à Djerba, en Tunisie, afin d'adopter un plan d'action pour les antilopes sahélo-sahariennes menacées, en réponse à la crise d'extinction alarmante qui frappait alors la faune sauvage de la région. Depuis lors, cette rencontre est devenue un rendez-vous annuel réunissant l'ensemble des acteurs engagés dans la conservation, le développement durable et les questions environnementales dans les zones arides d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient.

Animée par l'équipe de Sahara Conservation, la réunion du GISS offre une occasion unique aux praticiens et aux organisations de conservation de partager leurs travaux sur les espèces et les habitats sahéliens et sahariens, tout en favorisant un solide réseau d'acteurs issus de différentes disciplines et de l'ensemble des pays de répartition.

Pour la première fois, la réunion s'est déroulée au Caire, en Égypte, grâce à la collaboration avec Réseau Arabe pour l'Environnement et le Développement (RAED), qui a coorganisé l'événement avec Sahara Conservation.

À l'approche de la dix-septième Conférence des Parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification (COP17 de la CNULCD), l'édition 2026 du SSIG a mis à l'honneur l'Année internationale des parcours et des éleveurs pastoraux. Couvrant près de la moitié des terres de la planète, les parcours abritent une biodiversité unique et font vivre des millions de pasteurs dont les moyens de subsistance en dépendent.

La conférence a été ouverte par le Dr Raafat Misak, professeur émérite au Desert Research Centre et représentant du ministère égyptien de l'Agriculture et de la Réhabilitation des terres, ainsi que par le Dr Ghada Ahmadein, responsable de programme au sein du RAED.



L'événement a réuni 66 participants issus de 16 pays, parmi lesquels des représentants d'organisations de conservation de terrain, d'administrations publiques, d'ONG, d'universités et d'étudiants. Au cours de deux journées et demi, 32 intervenants ont présenté leurs travaux et partagé leurs expériences autour de trois thématiques transversales consacrées au Sahara et au Sahel : la restauration des espèces ; la préservation des écosystèmes, abordant la gestion durable, la restauration et la conservation des aires protégées, avec une attention particulière portée aux écosystèmes désertiques et pastoraux ; et les interactions Homme / faune sauvage et la santé des

écosystèmes, explorant des approches complémentaires au bénéfice des communautés, de la faune sauvage et du bétail dans un contexte de désertification.

Cette 25^e édition a marqué une étape importante, célébrant un quart de siècle de collaboration en faveur de la conservation au Sahel et au Sahara. Elle a offert l'occasion de revenir sur l'évolution du groupe depuis sa création, sur son rôle dans le renforcement de la coopération entre pays et disciplines, ainsi que sur les moyens pour le GISS de poursuivre son évolution tout en impliquant la nouvelle génération de professionnels de la conservation.

Pour la deuxième fois, les Wadis & Dunes Excellence Awards ont été décernés afin de récompenser des contributions remarquables à la conservation, à la restauration des écosystèmes et au

développement durable dans les régions arides. Six personnalités se sont vu décerner cette distinction pour leur engagement exceptionnel. Félicitations à Raafat Misak, Marie Petretto, Tim Wachter, Mostafaa Al Hakeem, ainsi qu'à David Mallon et Philippe Chardonnet, en leur qualité d'anciens coprésidents du Groupe de spécialistes des antilopes de la CSE de l'UICN.

La réunion du GISS a été l'occasion d'identifier des pistes de collaboration à l'échelle régionale. Les participants ont notamment évoqué la possibilité de partager leurs retours d'expérience, leurs ressources techniques et leurs stratégies en matière de conservation et de restauration des espèces, au moyen d'une plateforme dédiée et accessible aux professionnels de la conservation. Dans la perspective de la COP17 de la CNULCD, les participants ont également discuté des possibilités de contribuer aux événements et initiatives connexes et de les soutenir, notamment à travers une représentation régionale et/ou une participation active à la COP en Mongolie. Enfin, les organisateurs du GISS ont réaffirmé leur souhait de poursuivre l'organisation de réunions annuelles, en encourageant les membres à accueillir, soutenir et contribuer aux prochaines éditions.

Ce document rassemble les résumés des présentations orales ainsi que les posters présentés lors de la réunion 2026 du GISS.

ABSTRACTS | RÉSUMÉS

DAY 1 – Tuesday 5th May 2026 | Jour 1 – Mardi 5 mai 2026

THEME 1: Human/wildlife interactions & ecosystems health: complementary approaches for communities, wildlife and livestock in a desertification context

Interactions Homme / faune & santé des écosystèmes : approches complémentaires pour les communautés, la faune sauvage et domestique et l'environnement, dans un contexte de désertification

1. Community-Centered Drought Resilience in Egypt's Nile Delta: Insights from the ABCDryBASIN Project

Rehab Abdel FATTAH¹, Haitham ELYAMANY¹

¹ Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), Egypt

Climate change is intensifying drought and water scarcity challenges across Egypt's Nile Delta, threatening agricultural productivity, rural livelihoods, and food security. The ABCDryBASIN project addresses these challenges through an integrated, community-centered approach that combines scientific tools, traditional knowledge, and participatory water governance. Implemented in Egypt by the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) in partnership with the Faculty of Engineering at Tanta University and supported by IHE Delft, the project focuses on drought-affected communities in Kafr El-Sheikh, El-Beheira, and El-Gharbia governorates.

The project moves beyond conventional technical responses by recognizing drought as a multidimensional challenge shaped by environmental, socioeconomic, and institutional factors. Through extensive field assessments involving more than 1,100 participants, the project documented local perceptions of water scarcity, traditional irrigation practices, and community-based coping mechanisms. These findings informed a series of multi-stakeholder workshops that strengthened dialogue among farmers, water user associations, local authorities, researchers, media representatives, and civil society organizations.

A key feature of the project is the integration of advanced technologies, including remote sensing and climate data, with locally grounded knowledge. This approach is being tested through a Living Lab established in Sidi Salem, Kafr El-Sheikh, where farmers and researchers collaboratively evaluate adaptive measures related to water management, soil salinity, and climate-resilient agriculture.

The presentation will share lessons learned from implementing participatory drought resilience strategies in the Nile Delta, highlighting the role of civil-society organizations in bridging scientific research, policy dialogue, and community action. It will demonstrate how combining local knowledge, stakeholder engagement, and evidence-based decision-making can contribute to more inclusive and effective drought adaptation policies in Egypt and other water-stressed regions.

Keywords : Climate change, Community resilience, ABCDryBASIN Project

2. Rewilding as a nature-based solution

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Our presentation will focus on rewilding as a nature-based solution to the environmental, economic and social challenges we face. It will describe rewilding, present the Global Rewilding Alliance and finally open the floor to examples of impactful projects. The purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate the work that is already done globally as well as encourage future collaboration to drive long-term resilience for people and the Sahel-Saharan landscapes.

Keywords: Coexistence, Science, Policy

3. Managing a landscape in motion: pastoralism and conservation in Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve, Chad

Violeta BARRIOS^{1,2}

¹ Sahara Conservation, France

² IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group, co-Chair

This presentation explores the evolving relationship between pastoralism and conservation in the Ouadi Rimé–Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve (RFOROA), Chad. While pastoral mobility has historically supported the sustainable use of Sahelian ecosystems, rapid transformations (growing herd sizes, changing ownership patterns, new water access technologies, and increasing pressure on resources) are reshaping these dynamics. RFOROA is designated as an IUCN Category IV protected area, meaning it is managed to conserve biodiversity while allowing certain regulated human uses, including traditional pastoral practices. With a formal management plan and negotiated use rights, it offers a compelling case of coexistence between conservation and seasonal transhumance. The presentation highlights the challenges of implementing such frameworks in a context of mobility, resource competition, and ecological change, and argues for approaches that move beyond exclusion toward managing shared, dynamic landscapes.

Keywords: Transhumance, Rangeland management, Protected areas governance, Sahel ecosystems

4. Économies rurales et aires protégées : collaboration harmonieuse ou conflit inévitable ? L'exemple des relations pastoralisme et aires protégées au Tchad

Christophe BOUVIER¹

¹ CA 17 International, France

L'extension et la création d'aires protégées modifient profondément les usages des territoires et peuvent générer des tensions avec les activités rurales traditionnelles, notamment le pastoralisme transhumant. À partir de l'exemple du Tchad, cette présentation analyse les mécanismes par lesquels les approches exclusivement réglementaires et répressives peuvent alimenter des cycles de conflits et de marginalisation. Elle propose une réflexion sur les conditions permettant de passer d'une logique d'exclusion à une dynamique de coopération fondée sur le dialogue, la concertation et la cogestion. En s'appuyant sur des initiatives déjà mises en œuvre par différents acteurs de la conservation, elle souligne l'importance de créer des espaces de gouvernance partagée afin de concilier préservation de la biodiversité, gestion durable des ressources naturelles et maintien des systèmes pastoraux, au bénéfice des communautés et des écosystèmes sahélo-sahariens.

Mots-clés : Pastoralisme, Aires protégées, Transhumance, Économie rurale

5. Transhumance, translocation and transmission: diseases on the move: health impacts of animal movements on translocated and resident populations

Philippe CHARDONNET^{1,2,3}, Serge Patrick Tadjou⁴

¹IUCN SSC Wildlife Health Specialist Group

²IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group

³IUCN SSC Afro-Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group, co-Chair

⁴Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Cameroon

This presentation, “*Transhumance, Translocation and Transmission: Diseases on the Move*”, explores how animal movement influences disease dynamics at the wildlife–livestock interface in African savanna ecosystems. The authors, Philippe Chardonnet and Serge Patrick Tadjou, compare mobile systems such as wildlife migrations and livestock transhumance with sedentary or confined systems, emphasizing their contrasting epidemiological consequences.

The presentation highlights how mobility can regulate parasite transmission in free-ranging wildlife by reducing host density and disrupting vector life cycles. In contrast, confinement and livestock concentration may favor vector proliferation and disease spread. Rapid growth of domestic ruminant populations across Africa, particularly in Chad, has intensified seasonal transhumance and increased contact between livestock, wildlife, vectors, and humans.

A major focus is the seasonal encroachment of transhumant livestock into protected areas such as Bouba Ndjidda National Park in Cameroon, where livestock now greatly outnumber large wild herbivores. This expanding livestock–wildlife interface facilitates pathogen transmission and cross-species spillover. The presentation also discusses the passive spread of vectors such as the tropical bont tick (*Amblyomma variegatum*) beyond their ecological range through livestock movements and bird-mediated dispersal.

Finally, the authors examine disease risks linked to wildlife translocations, stressing the importance of health screening, vaccination, and biosecurity. The presentation concludes by advocating integrated management approaches that strengthen coexistence between livestock production and wildlife conservation in shared landscapes.

Keywords: Transhumance, Translocation, Disease, Livestock

6. Oasis en renaissance : quand la collaboration devient solution

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La participation au projet « Initiatives pour la restauration de l'écosystème oasien » dans le cadre du programme PPI SCAN 3 illustre clairement la complémentarité stratégique entre la société civile, les bénéficiaires directs, la communauté locale et les institutions de recherche, au service de la durabilité des écosystèmes désertiques. Porté par l'Association Tunisienne de l'Énergie, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement, le projet s'est appuyé sur une approche participative intégrée visant à restaurer la biodiversité oasienne tout en consolidant les capacités techniques et organisationnelles des acteurs locaux.

La société civile a assuré un rôle central de coordination, de mobilisation et d'accompagnement technique. Les Groupements de Développement Agricole (GDAs), en tant que bénéficiaires directs, ont été pleinement impliqués dans les diagnostics participatifs des zones touchées par les ravageurs des palmiers dattiers, dans l'organisation d'« écoles aux champs » et dans l'expérimentation de solutions de lutte biologique. Ils ont également contribué à la mise en œuvre et au suivi d'ouvrages pilotes de réhabilitation des drains, favorisant une meilleure gestion de l'eau et la réduction de la salinité des sols.

La communauté locale, notamment à travers une GDA féminine, a renforcé la diversification de la biodiversité par la valorisation des plantes aromatiques et médicinales. Les institutions de recherche et les cadres techniques ont soutenu le suivi scientifique, en particulier le contrôle de la conductivité électrique des eaux de drainage. Cette synergie démontre qu'une gouvernance collaborative constitue un levier essentiel pour la résilience et la conservation durable des oasis.

Mots-clés : Gouvernance participative, Écosystèmes oasiens, Résilience climatique, Développement durable

7. Children and nature in Tunisia: changing the educational perspective in the Dghoumes and Bou Hedma National Park areas

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³ Réseau des Enfants de la Terre, Tunisia

⁴ Direction Générale des Forêts, Tunisia

The “Children and Nature in Tunisia” project, led by Marwell Wildlife in partnership with the École de la Nature de Branféré and the Réseau des Enfants de la Terre, offers an innovative approach to human–wildlife–ecosystem interactions in a context of increasing desertification. Implemented near the protected areas of Dghoumes and Bou Hedma National Parks in Southern Tunisia, the project positions children as key agents of long-term change.

In regions where pressures on natural resources, overgrazing, water scarcity, and habitat fragmentation intensify potential conflicts between local communities, livestock, and wildlife, the programme promotes an immersive pedagogy based on direct experience in nature. Through field activities, environmental clubs, and the training of local facilitators, children develop ecological knowledge alongside a nuanced understanding of the balance between human use and ecosystem health, while reshaping their perception of often harsh environments.

This approach aims to transform attitudes from an early age (primary school level) by fostering empathy toward wildlife and highlighting ecosystem services essential to rural livelihoods. By integrating social, educational, and ecological dimensions, the project aims to reduce behaviors harmful to biodiversity and encourages more sustainable practices.

In a Saharan context marked by the vulnerability of socio-ecosystems, “Children and Nature” demonstrates the complementary role of environmental education in conservation strategies. By investing in future generations, it supports more harmonious coexistence between people, wildlife, and livestock, an essential condition for ecosystem resilience in the face of desertification.

Keywords: Environmental education, Human–wildlife coexistence, Ecosystem resilience, Community-based conservation

THEME 2: Restoring species: biology, management and recovery of threatened species

Restauration des espèces : biologie, gestion et rétablissement des espèces menacées

8. Celebrating 10 years of the return of the scimitar-horned oryx to Chad

John NEWBY¹, Oualbadet MAGOMNA², Habib ALI HAMID², Helen SENN³, Tim WACHER⁴

¹ Sahara Conservation, France

² Sahara Conservation, Tchad

³ Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, United Kingdom

⁴ Zoological Society of London, United Kingdom

This session marks a decade since the return of the scimitar-horned oryx to the wild in Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim, Chad, a landmark achievement in global conservation. It opens with the screening of *Wa'hash* (Sean Viljoen, Conservation Film Company), followed by a moderated discussion bringing together key stakeholders who have shaped and implemented the project over time.

The panel will reflect on the origins and evolution of the reintroduction initiative, beginning with its early vision and the commitment required to translate it into a viable field program. It will also explore the enabling institutional conditions in Chad that made such an ambitious conservation effort possible, and how the project has influenced national approaches to wildlife conservation.

Keywords: Oryx project, Reintroduction, Rewilding, Partnership

9. Réintroduction de l'oryx algazelle, de l'addax et de la gazelle dama dans la Réserve de faune de Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim, au Tchad

Habib ALI HAMID¹, Oumar Mahamat Annadif¹, Mahamat Ali Adoum¹, Abdel-Hakim Izzadine¹, Tim Wacher²

¹ Sahara Conservation, Tchad

² Zoological Society of London, United Kingdom

Depuis 2016, 14 groupes d'oryx et sept groupes d'addax ont été réintroduits dans la Réserve de Faune Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim (RFOROA) au Tchad. Cette présentation illustre les méthodes quotidiennes et saisonnières utilisées par l'équipe de suivi du Projet Oryx pour assurer le suivi post-relâcher de ces réintroductions. Les résultats de l'étude par échantillonnage par transects linéaires de février 2026 y sont résumés. Les premiers résultats d'une nouvelle initiative visant à relâcher des addax dans l'extrême nord de la RFOROA sont présentés, et les résultats des récents lâchers pilotes pour renforcer la population sauvage de gazelles dama issues des groupes d'élevage en captivité *in situ* détenus au camp de base de réintroduction des oryx sont détaillés.

Mots-clés : Réintroduction, Oryx algazelle, Addax

10. Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative

Nathan MESNILDREY¹

¹ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, United Nations

The CMS Secretariat proposes an oral presentation with slide deck to provide an updated overview of progress under the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative since 2024. The presentation will outline advances in implementing Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP14), including follow-up on the Sahelo-Saharan

Megafauna Funding Mechanism Concept and Strategy, finalized in 2024 and now under review by Range States.

The update will also summarize key developments emerging from the ongoing CMS COP15, particularly the draft Decision recommending strengthened support for the Initiative and tasks directed to relevant Range States, as well as updates on planned activities for 2026. As in 2024, the Secretariat will conclude by inviting an open exchange with SSIG participants, encouraging questions, feedback, and suggestions to strengthen the implementation of the Initiative.

Keywords: CMS, Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative

11. Wadi ElGimal gazelle status survey 2025, findings and results

Hossameldin ELALKAMY¹, Adnan Abdelhamid Abdel-Halime¹

¹ Fraser Environmental Consultancy, Canada

Wadi Elgimal is one of the protected Areas in Southern Egypt on the coast of the Red Sea. The Nature Conservation Sector – Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency is keen to establish the status of the gazelle species in Wadi El-Gimal National Park (WGNP). A project was formulated and sponsored by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The project commenced in June 2025, aiming at surveying a total area of 4800 Km² encompassing the Gazelle's known habitat in Wadi El Gimal National Park WGNP. The study aimed to assess 4 parameters, mainly 1) the Gazelle population size & 2) density, 3) Gazelle activity, and 4) Gazelle occupancy in the area. The study aims to establish a baseline of knowledge about the gazelle population in WGNP. The study started in June 2025 and ended in early Nov. October 2025. The study involved Habitat classification and mapping in WGNP, and Distance sampling of indirect marks of gazelle presence (dung piles) over 140 km of line transects covering 4800 Km² of range. Also, the study involved 1,350 days of camera trapping across 15 sites distributed selectively within the Gazelle habitat of WGNP. In addition, interviews were conducted with elderly members of the local community to gather their local knowledge of the species.

Keywords: Wadi ElGimal, Egypt, Dorcas Gazelle, distance sampling, Occupancy

12. Drivers of distributional changes in Northeast African gazelle in the Holocene: a cross-disciplinary analysis of pharaonic gazelle iconography

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How drastic was the impact of the African Humid Period on the species composition of ungulate communities in Holocene North Africa? The answer to this question is central to understanding the degree of stability in the region's biodiversity over the past millennia, with clear implications for conservation efforts today: knowing the extent to which the present-day distributions are the consequence of anthropogenic rather than natural ecological processes is key to setting goals for species restoration. Here, I reinterpret pharaonic gazelle iconography in light of ecological habitat suitability modelling and the zooarchaeological record. The study gives surprising new insights into the likely presence of different species both in the pictorial record and within the Two Lands in antiquity.

Overall, the findings point to a more arid-adapted gazelle fauna in pharaonic Egypt than implied by earlier identifications.

Keywords: Species distribution modelling, Zooarchaeology, Antelopes, *Nanger dama*

13. Population structure and habitat use of the dama gazelle in the Aïr mountains (Niger): conservation implications

Abdoul Razack MOUSSA ZABEIROU¹, Violeta Barrios², Thomas Rabeil³, Tim Wacher⁴, John Newby², David Mallon⁵, Pavla Hejzmanová⁶, Karolína Brandlová⁶, Jerry Owusu Afriyie⁶, Adouma Alghoubas⁷

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The dama gazelle (*Nanger dama*), one of the most threatened antelope species in the Sahara–Sahel region, has undergone a severe decline across its historical range. The Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve (ATNNR) in Niger remains one of its last strongholds, yet current ecological data are limited.

This presentation is based on a study of the dama gazelle in the ATNNR using camera trapping and direct observations collected between 2017 and 2023 to analyze population structure, distribution, and habitat use. Activity patterns and potential interactions with sympatric species, as well as human dimension, were also examined.

Results reveal a fragmented distribution, low detection rates, and a population dominated by adults, indicating possible recruitment constraints. Habitat use is shaped by environmental conditions and anthropogenic pressures, particularly livestock presence, habitat disturbance, and human activities. Observed activity patterns suggest behavioral adjustments likely linked to disturbance avoidance.

Importantly, this study highlights the critical role of local communities in shaping conservation outcomes. Integrating local knowledge, reducing resource-use pressures, and promoting community-based monitoring are essential to improving conservation effectiveness.

Keywords: Dama gazelle, camera trap, ATNNR, Population structure, Habitat use, Human dimension, Conservation management

14. Behavioural and ecological traits of the dama mhorh gazelle (*Nanger dama mhorh*, Bennett 1832) under four different conservation scenarios

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The dama gazelle (*Nanger dama*) is one of the most endangered Sahelo–Saharan antelope species. Current conservation efforts aimed at preventing its extinction rely on *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation programs and reintroduction efforts. However, the success of these strategies depends on a deeper understanding of the species' behavioral responses. In this study, we analyzed key behaviors — feeding, resting, displacement and running — in four dama mhorh gazelle populations under different conservation scenarios, defined by ecological suitability (inside vs. outside the distribution range) and

levels of human presence and management intensity. Our aim is to characterize the activity patterns and time budget of the species and assess how five ecological drivers—human presence, temperature, competitors, food resources and predators— affect them. Behavioural data were reviewed across four conservation projects using non-invasive monitoring methods: camera traps were used in three scenarios (EEZA, Almería, Spain), and semi-wild populations in M'Cissi and Safia, Morocco) and GPS collars in the reintroduced population in Safia. Our results indicate that the dama mhorh gazelle exhibits three different activity patterns (diurnal, cathemeral or bimodal), mainly affected by management conditions associated with human presence, as well as by temperature and its seasonal variation. Captivity, which is associated with human presence, promotes cathemeral activity patterns, whereas high temperatures and strong seasonality restrict activity during the hottest hours, resulting in a bimodal pattern. In contrast, the time budget is primarily influenced by food resources, with ad libitum supplementation promoting eating and low-cost activities, and by the presence of competitors, promoting displacement.

Keywords: Dama gazelles, Reintroduction, Behavior

DAY 2 – Wednesday 6 May 2026 | Jour 2 – Mercredi 6 mai 2026

Reflecting on 25 years of SSIG

This session celebrated 25 years of collaboration while exploring the future role of SSIG as a catalyst for conservation action across the Sahel and Sahara.

It began with a short video featuring testimonials from long-standing participants and was followed by an interactive discussion reflecting on the origins of the group, its evolution over the past quarter century, and its role in fostering collaboration across countries and disciplines.

Contributors shared perspectives on why SSIG was created, the conservation challenges it sought to address, and how it has developed into a lasting platform for dialogue and cooperation.

The session also provided an opportunity to examine the role of SSIG in supporting conservation efforts across the Sahel and Sahara today, bringing together voices from governmental agencies, protected area management, and long-term participants.

Looking to the future, the discussion considered how SSIG can continue to evolve, engage the next generation of conservation professionals, and strengthen its contribution to biodiversity conservation in one of the world's most challenging and rapidly changing regions.

Keywords: SSIG, Collaboration, Conservation

THEME 3: Sustaining ecosystems: sustainable management, restoration and conservation of protected areas, with a focus on desert and rangelands

Durabilité des écosystèmes : modèles de gestion efficace, de restauration et de conservation des aires protégées, avec un accent particulier sur les zones désertiques et les pâturages

1. Sustainable environmental and tourism development plan in South Sinai "balancing conservation and development"

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South Sinai, a region of immense natural and cultural significance, faces growing environmental pressures from tourism and development. This technical paper proposes a sustainable environmental and tourism development plan, integrating conservation, community engagement, and responsible tourism practices to balance economic growth with environmental protection. There will be an assessment for current challenges, including waste management, habitat degradation, and water scarcity, and outline strategies for eco-friendly tourism development, protected area management, and community involvement. Our approach combines geospatial analysis, stakeholder engagement, and best practices to ensure South Sinai's unique ecosystems and cultural heritage are preserved while supporting local livelihoods and Egypt's tourism goals. Key focus areas include enhancing protected areas like Ras Mohammed National Park, promoting eco-tourism in areas such as Sharm El-Sheikh and Dahab, and ensuring local communities benefit from tourism activities. Through adoption of a collaborative and sustainable approach, this paper aims to create a model for responsible tourism in sensitive environments.

Keywords: Sustainable development, Sustainable tourism, Conservation, Community engagement, South Sinai

2. Réserves sahélo-sahariennes du Niger : richesses naturelles, défis de conservation et rôles clés des communautés locales

Abdoul Razack MOUSSA ZABEIROU¹, Abba Mamane¹, Cloé Pourchier², Violeta Barrios²

¹ Sahara Conservation, Niger

² Sahara Conservation, France

Les aires protégées sahélo-sahariennes du Niger, notamment la Réserve de Biosphère de Gadabedji (RBG), la Réserve Naturelle Nationale de Termit et Tin-Toumma (RNNTT) et la Réserve Naturelle Nationale de l'Aïr et du Ténéré (RNNAT), abritent une biodiversité remarquable adaptée à des conditions extrêmes, incluant des espèces menacées comme la gazelle dama, plusieurs espèces de vautours africains, la girafe d'Afrique de l'Ouest, etc. Ces écosystèmes sont confrontés à de fortes pressions issues des activités anthropiques, telles que la dégradation des habitats, le braconnage et les effets du changement climatique. Dans ce contexte, il est indispensable d'allier la conservation aux réalités locales.

Cette présentation souligne que la durabilité de la conservation dépend fortement de l'implication des communautés locales à travers, entre autres, le développement d'alternatives économiques, l'accès aux services de base (éducation et santé) et leur participation aux activités de suivi et de protection des aires protégées.

En intégrant conservation de la biodiversité et développement communautaire, cette approche propose un modèle adapté aux contextes sahélo-sahariens, où les communautés locales deviennent des acteurs clés et durables de la préservation de leur environnement.

Mots-clés : Aires protégées, Sahel-Sahara, Niger, Conservation de la biodiversité, Communautés locales, Suivi écologique

3. Présentation de la Réserve Naturelle et Culturelle de l'Ennedi, Tchad

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La Réserve Naturelle et Culturelle de l'Ennedi (RNCE), cogérée par African Parks et le Gouvernement du Tchad depuis 2018, met en œuvre une approche intégrée combinant conservation de la biodiversité, développement communautaire, application de la loi et préservation du patrimoine culturel. Cette présentation met en lumière les principaux résultats obtenus dans le cadre du Plan stratégique 2022-2040, notamment le succès de la réintroduction de l'autruche à cou rouge et de l'addax, le renforcement des capacités de surveillance, les initiatives en faveur des communautés locales, ainsi que la documentation de plus de 1 900 sites archéologiques.

Mots-clés : Patrimoine UNESCO, Conservation, Réintroduction, Site archéologique

4. Gestion intégrée et conservation des ressources naturelles : l'aire protégée de Beampingaratsy à Madagascar

Narindra Hajatiana RAKOTOARIJAONA NADISON¹

¹ CA 17 International, France

La forêt humide de Beampingaratsy, couvrant 124 000 hectares, a été reconnue comme aire protégée à Madagascar en février 2026. Reliant les parcs nationaux de Midongy Atsimo et d'Andohahela, elle forme un corridor écologique essentiel pour la circulation des espèces, la régulation climatique régionale et la sécurisation des ressources en eau.

Cette aire protégée constitue un modèle de gestion intégrée des écosystèmes, fondé sur une forte implication des communautés locales à travers les comités de base (COBA), associés à la gouvernance et à la gestion durable des ressources naturelles. Elle illustre ainsi des mécanismes

concrets de conservation et de restauration, conciliant préservation de la biodiversité et développement territorial.

Dans ce cadre, le projet TALAKY BE soutient la restauration de plus de 118 000 hectares de paysages forestiers, tout en promouvant des pratiques agricoles et pastorales durables, adaptées aux contraintes locales. La gestion intégrée de l'eau, des sols et des forêts contribue à renforcer la résilience des socio-écosystèmes, y compris dans les zones de transition où les écosystèmes se dégradent sous l'effet de pressions similaires à celles observées dans les milieux semi-arides et les zones de pâturage.

Cette communication met en évidence la complémentarité entre conservation, restauration et usages productifs, souvent perçus comme antagonistes. Elle souligne également l'importance du dialogue entre connaissances scientifiques et savoirs locaux pour construire des modèles de gestion efficaces et durables, transférables à d'autres contextes, notamment les zones sèches et les systèmes pastoraux.

Mots-clés : Aires protégées, Restauration des écosystèmes, Gouvernance communautaire, Résilience socio-écologique

5. [Projet Natur-OROA : amélioration de la gestion de la Réserve de Faune de Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim au bénéfice de la nature et des communautés](#) Oualbadet MAGOMNA¹

¹ Sahara Conservation, Tchad

La Réserve de Faune de Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim (RFOROA), créée en 1969, est dédiée à la protection des paysages et des espèces sahélo-sahariennes. Située au centre du Tchad en pleine zone pastorale, elle couvre 77 950 km². Elle est essentielle tant pour la faune que pour les éleveurs et leur bétail. Afin de relever les défis de gestion de cet espace partagé, un Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion (PAG) de la réserve, couvrant la période 2023–2032, a été adopté à l'initiative du Ministère en charge de l'Environnement du Tchad, avec l'appui de l'Union européenne et le soutien de Sahara Conservation.

D'après les recommandations du PAG, un accord de partenariat entre le Gouvernement du Tchad et Sahara Conservation a été signé en 2025 pour la gestion de la RFOROA. Le projet Natur-OROA s'inscrit dans ce cadre. Le projet a pour objectif d'amplifier les succès en termes de conservation de la nature et de qualité de vie des populations rurales, en particulier des plus vulnérables et des femmes, dans le paysage de la RFOROA.

Mots-clés : Réserve de Faune de Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim, Plan d'aménagement et de gestion, Tchad

6. [Water resource dynamics and ecosystem response in arid environments: evidence from the Bouarfa Plain \(Morocco\)](#) Hayat HACHIMI¹, Yves Hingrat², Abdelkader El Garouani¹

¹ Laboratory of Georesources and Environment, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

² Reneco International Wildlife Consultants LTD, United Arab Emirates

In North Africa, water resources management has become a major challenge due to the combined effects of climate change and human population growth, threatening food security. These constraints are particularly marked in arid and semi-arid regions, where water resources are scarce. In Morocco, this pressure is particularly intense, as these regions cover 59% of the country while providing up to 20% of its agricultural value added, mainly due to intensive irrigation. In response to these challenges, several national strategies have been implemented, including the Green Morocco Plan (2008–2020), aiming to modernize the agricultural sector and improve productivity, with controversial actions such as dam construction. This plan contributed significantly to the expansion of irrigated areas, reaching

more than 1.6 million hectares, supported by 154 large dams with a total capacity of storage around 20.7 billion cubic meters, in addition to 150 small and medium dams. However, while irrigation boosted agricultural development, there is little evidence of the impact of the plan on natural water resources and its consequences on natural habitats and biodiversity.

Our research project aims examining the dynamic of water availability and its impact on natural ecosystems in an arid region of Eastern Morocco, the Bouarfa plain.

The approach combines qualitative and quantitative analysis of water resources, hydrogeological balance (MODFLOW), and remote sensing analysis of time-series satellite imageries to assess natural and anthropic habitat change. This work is conducted in collaboration with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Reneco International Wildlife Consultants, LTD and Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University.

Keywords: Climate change, Arid ecosystems, Water resources management, Remote sensing, Morocco

7. Reforestation by direct seeding in a predesert protected area, Dghoumes National Park, Tunisia

Koenraad DE SMET¹, Marie Petretto²

¹ Sahara Conservation, France and US

² Marwell Wildlife, United Kingdom

Around the Sahara, *Acacia raddiana* forms forests, and its density depends a lot on the amount of rainfall. Our study area is in the 100 mm winter rain zone and in the nearby Bou Hedma National Park, where the stand is natural. The only other tree in that zone is *Pistacia atlantica*, but only in wet cuvettes. *Acacia* forests are important for wildlife for shade, and fodder (pods and leaves), and add an extra layer to the scrubs and herbs. Gazelles and other wildlife, such as ostrich, spread the seeds by dung deposits, and this helps habitat restoration.

The first acacias in the park were planted 40 years ago and measure now at 1,4 m height, 68 and 63 cm circumference. They have been producing seeds for many years, and we found seedlings up to 200 m from the mother trees in places with and without gazelle faeces. In the central and eastern part of the parc, the ancient technique of bourrelets steppiques/tabias was applied, with shallow depressions of not more than 70 cm. there seed of *Acacia* and seeds of *Ziziphus* were sown and we checked there also for seedlings of these species and found them. Not so equally spread, but lots of them in the Oued Boumoussa, Mrija and Slah Ben Hami. Further east in the Oued Kebrita, only *Ziziphus* and a big *Rhus tripartitus*. We found that the technique of direct seeding did work in the Dghoumes National Park and should be continued. Further follow-up should determine what the survival rate of these seedlings is and what the germination percentage of acacia seeds is in gazelle and oryx pellets.

Keywords: *Acacia*, Reforestation, Gazelle dung

8. Beyond tree planting: nature-based solutions supported by carbon markets in arid environments

Sawsan ELAWADY¹

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Arid and semi-arid regions, particularly in the Middle East and the Gulf, are facing escalating environmental challenges driven by climate change, land degradation, and water scarcity. While tree planting initiatives are widely promoted as a primary restoration strategy, such approaches are often misaligned with the ecological and biophysical characteristics of fragile desert ecosystems.

This paper introduces a “beyond tree planting” approach by exploring nature-based solutions specifically tailored to arid environments. These include soil restoration and enhancement of soil

organic carbon, regenerative grazing practices, and water harvesting techniques. The paper further examines the role of carbon markets—particularly the voluntary carbon market—as an effective financial mechanism to support and scale these solutions by transforming them into tradable carbon assets.

With a particular focus on Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region, the paper highlights emerging opportunities within national sustainability agendas, including initiatives such as the Saudi Green Initiative, alongside the growing interest in developing localized carbon projects.

The study proposes an integrated model that links ecosystem restoration with carbon credit generation, taking into account the unique ecological dynamics of arid regions and the requirements of Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems.

Ultimately, the paper aims to provide a practical and scalable framework that redefines restoration strategies in arid landscapes by aligning ecological integrity with innovative climate finance mechanism.

Keywords: Nature-based solutions, Climate finance, Arid environment, Carbon market

9. Sand and Dust Storms Sources, Challenges & Risk Reduction, North Africa and Arabia

Raafat Misak¹, Samy Abo Ragab¹

¹ Desert Research Center, Egypt

Sand and dust storms (SDS) are increasingly recognized as a critical environmental challenge, with significant implications for public health, agriculture and livestock, infrastructure, and overall socioeconomic development. Originating from arid and semi-arid areas, these storms are exacerbated by drought, global warming and unsustainable land-use practices. Due to land use changes in the past three decades, anthropogenic sources of sand and dust have increased. To combat SDS, several resolutions have been adopted by UN Agencies:

- UN General Assembly: A/C.2/70/L.62 Dec. 2015
- UN Environment Assembly: UNEP/EA.2/L.23/Res.1 May 2016
- UN ESCAP: E/ESCAP/72/L.12/Res.1 May 2016.
- UN General Assembly A/C.2/71/L.53 Nov. 2016
- UNCCD, Decision 31/ Cop 13, September 2017

The International Scientific Community appreciates the UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/78/314) declaring the UN Decade on Combating Sands and Dust Storms (2025–2034) to enhance international and regional cooperation and support, and scaling up efforts to prevent, halt, and mitigate the negative effects of SDS, especially in affected countries. Also welcoming the UN General Assembly Resolution 77/249, in which 12 July was proclaimed International Day of Combating Sands and Dust Storms to raise global awareness of SDS. Supporting countries, regions and subregions to develop SDS strategies and action plans. Several lessons learned include:

- i. Successful stabilization of active sand dunes using eco-friendly materials (Al Ahsa Oasis, Saudi Arabia)
- ii. Successful restoration of degraded terrain and controlling active sand dunes (Kubuqi Desert, China)
- iii. Lesson learned (the case of Kuwait): successful Integrated sand and dust control system (mechanical and biological).

Keywords: Sand and dust storms, Climate finance, Land restoration, Arid land, Global warming

10. Development and management of natural rangelands to combat desertification in the Arab Republic of Egypt

Mostafa EL HAKEEM¹

¹ Desert Research Center, Egypt

This presentation synthesizes research by Prof. Mustafa Al-Hakeem on assessing and addressing drought, desertification, and resource degradation in arid environments. It outlines theoretical and practical frameworks for evaluating land degradation, with emphasis on desertification drivers, severity assessment, and staged mitigation strategies. The work proposes integrated land and water management approaches, including:

- Mapping and evaluating desertification risk across key landscapes.
- Developing and validating restoration and rehabilitation plans for natural rangelands and forage systems.
- Designing and implementing rainwater-harvesting infrastructures, notably ground reservoirs (cisterns) and stone dams, to enhance water security and support sustainable forage cultivation.
- Producing and disseminating decision-support tools and methodologies (e.g., GIS-based planning, land-quality indices) to guide interventions at the watershed and community levels.
- Creating and publishing a comprehensive reference on land rehabilitation, including methodological foundations, implementation guidelines, and a resource atlas for policymakers, extension services, and researchers.

Key outcomes discussed include classification of desertification degrees (slight to very severe), recommended governance and planning processes, and case-specific guidelines for reservoir placement, excavation sequencing, and stone-dam effectiveness. The work culminates in a scalable framework for integrating rainfall capture with land restoration to foster resilience in marginal ecosystems and rural livelihoods.

Keywords: Desertification, Arid environments, Landscape restoration

11. Protentional utilization of halophytes and salt-tolerant crops as cash crops in salt-affected lands

Hassan EL SHAER¹

¹ Desert Research Center, Egypt

This presentation surveys advances in saline agriculture and the use of halophytes and salt-tolerant forage crops as multipurpose cash crops in salt-affected lands. Drawing on research from the Desert Research Center and related studies, it highlights the drivers of land degradation, desertification, and salinization. It proposes integrated strategies to improve resource use efficiency in arid and semi-arid regions. Key components include:

- The potential of halophytes and salt-tolerant plants for food, feeds, wood, fiber, landscaping, pharmaceuticals, and coastal protection.
- Evaluation of land and water management approaches to rehabilitate salt-affected ecosystems and sustain rural livelihoods.
- Development of salt-tolerant fodder crops (e.g., Atriplex, Salicornia, Salsola, Tamarix) and their integration with conventional crops under various irrigation regimes.
- Case studies on intercropping halophytes with salt-tolerant fodder crops, water management practices (drip and gated pipe systems), and saline water reuse.
- Nutritional and palatability assessments of halophyte-based feeds, and the economic potential of halophytes as cash crops.

- A proposed implementable model: Bio-Saline Farm, integrating halophyte cultivation with saline water use to enhance food security, feed availability, and environmental protection.

The findings underscore the feasibility and profitability of leveraging halophytes and STPs to combat desertification, conserve freshwater resources, and diversify rural economies in salt-affected landscapes. The presentation also points toward scalable practices and policy-relevant guidance for deploying saline agriculture at regional and national levels.

Keywords: Halophytes, Saline agriculture, Cash crops, Salt affected land

THEME 2: Restoring species: biology, management and recovery of threatened species

Restauration des espèces : biologie, gestion et rétablissement des espèces menacées

12. Conservation Centers for Species Survival program update

Adam EYRES¹

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C2S2 has had some incredible growth over the past two years, including the addition of four new Core Members, a new program called the Partnership for Species, and new membership opportunities for associate facilities, as well as professional membership opportunities. They have also hired a full-time Program Manager who has hit the ground running and is coordinating all of these efforts.

The Partnership for Species (PFS) program was created to take on the management of 18 ungulate species that the Association of Zoos and Aquariums determined weren't going to be supported through the AZA into the future. Not only are there multiple species leaders involved, there is also a mechanism for supporting *in situ* conservation. Through the PFS, Marwell's Tunisia project received \$20,000 to support slender-horned gazelle conservation last year.

The Source Population Alliance is on the verge of a major refocus and expansion. This program is nearly ten years old and was created simply to help keep track of some of the ungulates that are kept in private hands—mainly in Texas. It was underfunded and lacked support, but there is interest in rejuvenating it to improve the conservation efforts available in the private sector.

This is an exciting time for the conservation of ungulates in managed care at large landscape facilities. There are more and more conservation centers being built throughout the world and C2S2 is working to connect them.

Keywords: C2S2, Ungulates, PFS, SPA, Managed care

13. One parasite, three worlds: Hydatidosis, a neglected One Health threat

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⁴ Institut de Recherche en Élevage pour le Développement, Chad

This presentation, "*One Parasite, Three Worlds: Hydatidosis, a Neglected One Health Threat*", explores the epidemiology and impact of hydatidosis (cystic echinococcosis) at the wildlife–livestock–human interface in Sahelian ecosystems. The authors, Philippe Chardonnet and Moukhtar Aldjibert, examine how the parasite *Echinococcus granulosus* circulates between carnivore definitive hosts and

herbivore or human intermediate hosts, creating a persistent zoonotic threat in rural livestock-dependent regions.

The presentation highlights severe cases of echinococcosis observed in critically endangered antelope species such as addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*) and dama gazelle (*Nanger dama*), including organ damage, chronic debilitation, and even suspected fatal hydatid shock. It emphasizes how environmental contamination is maintained by wild carnivores, particularly the pale fox (*Vulpes pallida*) and the African wolf (*Canis lupaster*), whose frequent incursions into antelope enclosures facilitate parasite transmission. Informal slaughter practices, poor disposal of infected viscera, and limited veterinary and public health interventions further contribute to endemic persistence.

A major focus is the challenge of diagnosis and treatment in remote rural settings. Reliable detection methods, including ELISA and PCR, are often inaccessible in the field, leading to an underestimation of disease prevalence. Treatment of intermediate hosts is considered impractical and only partially effective, whereas deworming definitive carnivore hosts (all domestic dogs and wild canids only within enclosures and around settlements), using agents such as praziquantel, represents the cornerstone of prevention.

Finally, the authors present practical One Health prevention measures, including carnivore deworming, exclusion of carnivores from enclosures, reinforcement of enclosure fencing, safe destruction of infected organs, hygiene promotion, and long-term surveillance. The presentation concludes by advocating integrated disease management strategies that simultaneously protect wildlife conservation, livestock production, and human health.

Keywords: Parasite, Hydatidosis, Zoonosis, One Health

14. Mapping ecological stability of desert herbivore habitats using multi-decadal satellite observations across Egypt

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Arid ecosystems are characterized by extreme climatic variability and highly uneven vegetation productivity, making it difficult to identify landscapes capable of supporting herbivore populations over long time periods. Conservation planning in desert environments is therefore challenged by limited ecological data and the high cost of field surveys across vast regions. Here we develop a satellite-based framework to map ecological stability of herbivore-supporting habitats across the deserts of Egypt using multi-decadal Earth observation data. We analyzed a 23-year time series from the Landsat Program archive together with rainfall dynamics from the CHIRPS precipitation dataset to quantify long-term vegetation persistence, interannual variability, and rainfall-vegetation coupling across desert landscapes. Temporal metrics derived from soil-adjusted vegetation indices were used to distinguish persistent vegetation patches from rainfall-driven pulse ecosystems. These layers were combined with disturbance proxies to construct a Desert Ecological Stability Index that identifies landscapes maintaining vegetation productivity despite climatic variability. Results reveal spatially distinct regimes of persistent vegetation, pulse-driven productivity, and marginal habitat across Egypt's deserts. Areas of high ecological stability are concentrated in hydrologically favorable landscapes, particularly along drainage systems and mountain wadis, while large portions of the desert exhibit highly stochastic vegetation dynamics. Overlay of occurrence records for desert herbivores—including *Gazella dorcas*, *Capra nubiana*, and *Uromastix aegyptia*—shows that observations are disproportionately associated with areas of higher ecological stability. Our results demonstrate how multi-decadal satellite archives can reveal hidden spatial structure in desert ecosystems and provide a scalable framework for identifying potential refugia and prioritizing monitoring and conservation efforts in data-poor arid landscapes.

Keywords: Desert ecological stability, Vegetation persistence, Multi-decadal satellite time series, Arid ecosystem refugia, Herbivore habitat

DAY 3 – Thursday 7 May 2026 | Jour 3 – Jeudi 7 mai 2026

THEME 2: Restoring species: biology, management and recovery of threatened species

Restauration des espèces : biologie, gestion et rétablissement des espèces menacées

1. Suivi spatial par balises GPS des grands oiseaux sahéliens : premiers résultats et enjeux de conservation dans la Réserve de Faune de Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim, au Tchad

Cloé POURCHIER¹

¹ Sahara Conservation, France

Les vautours et les outardes sont des espèces clés des écosystèmes sahéliens. Malgré leur importance écologique, ces espèces restent peu étudiées et les données relatives à l'état de leurs populations, à leurs déplacements et aux menaces auxquelles elles sont exposées demeurent limitées, ce qui contraint la mise en œuvre de mesures de conservation adaptées.

Afin d'améliorer l'état des connaissances et pour la première fois dans la région, un programme de déploiement d'émetteurs GPS a été initié en 2024 dans la Réserve de Faune de Ouadi Rimé–Ouadi Achim (RFOROA), d'abord sur des vautours, puis étendu aux outardes.

Au total, 10 vautours (6 vautours de Rüppell (*Gyps rueppelli*) et 4 vautours oricou (*Torgos tracheliotos*)) et une outarde de Denham (*Neotis denhami*) ont pu être équipés d'émetteurs satellites, ce qui a permis d'acquérir des données inédites sur les mouvements et l'utilisation de l'espace, croisées avec des données de terrain, et d'identifier différentes menaces pesant sur ces espèces. Il a également généré des retours d'expérience méthodologiques pour la mise en œuvre de ce type d'actions en contexte sahélien.

La présentation détaillera les méthodes de mise en œuvre, les principaux résultats obtenus et leurs implications pour la conservation des grands oiseaux du Sahel.

Mots-clés : Vautours, Outardes, Émetteurs, Suivi télémétrique

2. Comprehensive assessment of the Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in North Africa: a regional synthesis

Mohamed HABIB¹, José Rafael Garrido López^{2,3}, Jesús Bautista-Rodríguez³, Karim Rousselon⁴, Rachid El Khamlichi⁵, Abdeljebbar Qninba⁶, Halima Bousadik⁷, Patrick Bergier⁸, Haféda Benmammar-Hasnaoui⁹, Abdelkrim Si Bachir¹⁰, Ridha Ouni¹¹, Hannibal Hamrouni¹², Myriam Bessibes¹³, Khalid Etayeb¹⁴, Saleh Abdullah Buirzayqah¹⁵

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The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) occupies a precarious position at the southern periphery of its global range across North Africa, where populations remain small, fragmented, and subject to intensifying human pressures. Although globally assessed as Least Concern by the IUCN, this status obscures significant regional declines that demand targeted conservation attention. This report presents the first comprehensive, comparative synthesis of the species' status across five North African countries — Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt — drawing on recent field surveys, unpublished national reports, and the broader scientific literature.

Combined breeding populations are estimated at approximately 650–1,050 pairs region-wide, with Algeria and Morocco holding the largest contingents (≥ 600 and ~ 400 pairs, respectively), while Tunisia remains marginally stable at 40–50 pairs. Libya's population has declined sharply, largely due to catastrophic habitat loss from Storm Daniel (2023), compounded by persistent persecution and illegal capture. Egypt retains no more than five breeding pairs — the most critically reduced population on the continent. All populations are cliff-nesting and confined to mountainous or rocky escarpments, foraging over adjacent steppes, semi-deserts, and montane pastures.

Threats are largely anthropogenic and consistent across national borders, including direct persecution, illegal capture for the falconry trade, electrocution on power lines, habitat degradation from infrastructure development, prey depletion, and the emerging impacts of climate change on breeding success in arid zones. Legal protections exist in all five countries, yet enforcement in remote areas remains inadequate.

The report concludes with priority recommendations for a coordinated regional response, including power line modification, strict protection of core breeding sites, standardized transboundary monitoring, and community engagement programs. The survival of the Golden Eagle in North Africa depends on translating existing legal frameworks and conservation strategies into effective, well-resourced action on the ground.

Keywords: *Aquila chrysaetos*, Raptor conservation, North Africa, Population status, Transboundary conservation, Persecution, Habitat degradation

3. Réintroduction des autruches d'Afrique du Nord dans la Réserve de Biosphère de Gadabedji, au Niger

Maimounatou IBRAHIM MAMADOU¹, Cloé POURCHIER², Violeta Barrios²

¹ Sahara Conservation, Niger

² Sahara Conservation, France

Après des années d'études, de travail et d'investissements, une avancée majeure est sur le point de se concrétiser avec la réintroduction des autruches d'Afrique du Nord dans la Réserve de Biosphère de Gadabedji, aboutissement d'un programme d'élevage en captivité conduisant à leur retour en milieu naturel et constituant un moment clé pour l'ensemble des partenaires impliqués, notamment Sahara Conservation en collaboration avec la Direction de la Faune, de la Chasse et des Aires Protégées, l'association locale CERNK ainsi que des acteurs privés.

À ce jour, dix individus sont en cours de préparation pour leur relâcher dans la réserve. Ce processus inclut notamment la valorisation des résultats des différentes opérations de transfert et la mise en place d'actions de sensibilisation. Par ailleurs, un système de suivi post-réintroduction est actuellement en cours d'élaboration afin d'assurer le succès à long terme de l'initiative.

Parallèlement, les efforts se poursuivent pour renforcer ce premier groupe et ainsi œuvrer pour la pérennisation de ce travail de réintroduction.

La présentation abordera les étapes clés ayant conduit à ce résultat, les succès enregistrés au fil des années, ainsi que l'importance de la collaboration entre les différents acteurs impliqués dans la conservation des autruches d'Afrique du Nord.

Mots-clés : Autruches d'Afrique du Nord, Réintroduction, Réserve de Biosphère de Gadabedji

4. Réintroduction de l'autruche à cou rouge en Tunisie : progrès et défis critiques

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³ CRDA Medenine, Tunisie

⁴ CRDA Sousse, Tunisie

⁵ Zoo de Friguia, Tunisie

⁶ Centre d'élevage des animaux sauvages El Houaria, Tunisie

⁷ Afric'Autuche, Tunisie

La Tunisie a engagé depuis 2008 un programme de réintroduction de l'autruche à cou rouge (*Struthio camelus camelus*), dans le cadre de sa stratégie nationale de conservation sahélo-saharienne. Après plus d'un siècle d'extinction à l'état sauvage, des populations ont été réintroduites dans plusieurs aires protégées, notamment à Dghoumes, Bou Hedma et Sidi Toui. Les premières années ont montré des résultats encourageants, avec une reproduction en milieu naturel et une augmentation des effectifs, reposant sur l'introduction de deux lignées principales (tchadienne et soudanienne).

Cependant, en 2024 et 2025, des déclin importants ont été observés, notamment à Sidi Toui et Dghoumes. Les causes restent difficiles à identifier, mais plusieurs facteurs sont suspectés : contraintes sanitaires et prophylaxie limitée, maladies infectieuses, incertitudes sur les ressources alimentaires, ainsi que des déséquilibres démographiques (faibles effectifs, sex-ratio inadapté). Ces éléments compliquent fortement la restauration des populations dans un contexte de gestion de métapopulations semi-sauvages.

En 2026, le plan d'action a été révisé pour renforcer les populations, étendre les sites de réintroduction et améliorer les conditions de gestion, avec l'objectif de créer une population source viable à l'échelle nationale et des sites naturels repeuplés. Ce programme repose sur une collaboration étroite entre la Direction Générale des Forêts, Marwell Wildlife, le Zoo de Friguia et la ferme Afric'Autruche.

Face à ces défis, des actions d'urgence ont été engagées, incluant l'incubation artificielle et le sauvetage des derniers individus d'origine soudanienne. Le programme entre ainsi dans une phase critique nécessitant une gestion adaptative et une coordination renforcée pour assurer sa pérennité.

Mots-clés : Réintroduction, Métapopulation, Déclin des populations, Gestion adaptative

5. Black Crowned Crane Conservation in the Sahel and Northern Savannas: A Flagship for Cross-Regional Collaboration

Mark VAN NIEKERK¹

¹ International Crane Foundation, Zambia

The Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*) is an emblematic species of the Sahel and northern savannas, yet its populations continue to decline due to habitat loss, agricultural expansion, hydrological changes, and growing human pressures. This presentation provides an updated situational analysis of Black Crowned Crane conservation across key range states, with particular

focus on Chad, Ethiopia, Senegal, and South Sudan. Drawing on recent field assessments, partner engagement, and emerging data initiatives, we present updated distribution insights, identify possible priority breeding and foraging habitats, and summarize the principal threats affecting the species across its range. The work highlights the importance of coordinated, cross-regional collaboration to address conservation challenges that transcend national boundaries and administrative jurisdictions. The presentation explores the role of the Black Crowned Crane as a flagship species for integrated conservation and sustainable development approaches in the Sahel. Key components include strengthening partnerships with local communities and institutions, aligning biodiversity conservation with livelihoods and climate smart agriculture, and improving landscape level planning. Planned actions include enhanced data collection, systematic reconnaissance surveys, and the establishment of coordinated regional leadership to support implementation.

Keywords: Black Crowned Crane, Integrated conservation, Sustainable development

POSTERS

1. Rétablissement d'une population de buffles d'Afrique au Parc National de Siniaka-Minia après translocation massive (2022) : suivi démographique, comportemental et nutritionnel sur trois ans

Baudin FEKOUA¹

¹ African Parks, Tchad

Le Parc National de Siniaka-Minia (PNSM), intégré au Greater Zakouma Ecosystem (Tchad), a bénéficié en janvier-février 2022 de la translocation de plus de 900 buffles d'Afrique (*Syncerus caffer*) depuis Zakouma, la plus grande opération de ce type jamais réalisée en Afrique. Ce projet vise à rétablir une population viable dans un écosystème sahélo-soudanien dégradé par le braconnage historique et les pressions anthropiques.

Le suivi post-translocation, intensif sur les 6-12 premiers mois puis continu, a combiné GPS collaring (African Wildlife Tracking), camera traps (68 pièges), levés aériens (4/an) et monitoring vétérinaire. Résultats sur 3 ans (2022-2025) :

- Dispersion : adaptation rapide, limitée aux zones riches en eau et pâturages ; réduction des sorties du parc de 20 % après 6 mois grâce aux patrouilles renforcées.
- Comportement : normalisation après 3-6 mois (réduction du stress, augmentation de 25 % des troupeaux mixtes avec antilopes locales), vigilance anti-prédateurs stabilisée, incidents H-F atténués.
- Adaptation nutritionnelle : mortalité initiale <5 %, gain de condition corporelle de +15-20 % après 6 mois, favorisé par les feux précoces mosaïqués.
- Démographie : croissance de ~900 à >925 individus, reproduction observée chez 15-20 % des femelles.

Ce succès démontre l'efficacité des translocations massives en milieu sahélo-soudanien, malgré la saison sèche critique et les conflits homme-faune. Le suivi rigoureux et la gestion adaptative (points d'eau, feux contrôlés) consolident une population fondatrice viable, renforçant la résilience écologique du PNSM. Ce modèle peut inspirer la restauration d'autres espèces menacées dans la région.

Mots-clés : Buffle, Restauration

2. Temporal activity of the mhorr gazelle (*Nanger dama mhorr*) under captive conditions

Rebecca ALIAS-GOLDBERG¹, Sonia DOMINGUEZ¹, Teresa ABAIGAR¹

¹ Estación Experimental de Zonas Áridas – CSIC, Spain

Understanding the activity patterns in captivity of endangered species can provide essential information for assessing the degree of adaptation of individuals after their reintroduction into their natural habitats. This study investigates the activity rhythms of the mhorr gazelle (*Nanger dama mhorr*) in captivity for the first time. The research was conducted at 'La Hoya' Experimental Field Station (Almería, Spain). Two breeding herds were studied: herd C-14 (composed of six adult females and one adult male) and herd C-35 (with seven adult females and one adult male). Camera traps were used to record animal activity rates and time allocation 24 hours a day. Data were collected during 30 days between November and December 2023. Behavioural categories analyzed included maintenance behaviours, social interactions among individuals, feeding behaviours, locomotion, and resting patterns. Captive mhorr gazelles exhibited high levels of both diurnal and nocturnal activity, indicating a cathemeral activity pattern characterized by alternating periods of activity and rest with an approximate periodicity of 4-5 hours. Resting behaviours represented the most frequent activity. This pattern is likely associated with captive conditions, including constant resource availability, absence

of predators, and spatial constraints. Human presence also appeared to influence activity rhythms, as periods of increased human activity were associated with reduced feeding, resting, and reproductive behaviours. Additionally, individuals showed a clear preference for fresh forage over processed feed when both food types were available.

Keywords: Activity patterns, *Nanger dama mhor*, Captivity

3. Identification des menaces pesant sur les vautours au Tchad : premiers résultats

Cloé POURCHIER¹, Adoum Hassane Mahamat Ali², Violeta Barrios¹

¹ Sahara Conservation, France

² Sahara Conservation, Tchad

Les populations de vautours africains connaissent un déclin marqué, mais les menaces qui pèsent sur elles restent encore mal documentées au Tchad. Cette étude présente les premiers résultats d'un programme de suivi combinant télémétrie satellitaire et investigations opportunistes des mortalités dans la Réserve de Faune d'Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim. Entre décembre 2024 et février 2026, 116 vautours ont été retrouvés morts lors de huit événements distincts. La quasi-totalité des cas (98 %) est liée à des causes anthropiques, principalement l'empoisonnement, associé à l'utilisation des vautours dans les pratiques traditionnelles, responsable de 96 % des carcasses recensées. Les conflits Homme-faune constituent également une source récurrente de mortalité. Le suivi par balises satellitaires a permis d'améliorer la détection des événements de mortalité et souligne l'ampleur des menaces auxquelles les vautours sont confrontés. Ces premiers résultats mettent en évidence l'urgence de renforcer les actions de recherche, de sensibilisation et de lutte contre l'empoisonnement afin de mieux protéger ces espèces clés des écosystèmes sahélo-sahariens.

Mots-clés : Vautours, Suivi satellitaire, Menaces



ANNEXES



PARTICIPANTS

First Name / Prénom	Last Name / Nom de famille	Organisation	Country / Pays
Abdullah	NAGY	Al-Azhar University in Cairo	Egypt
Adam	EYRES	Fossil Rim Wildlife Center	United States
Adnan Abdelhamid	ABDEL-HALIME	Fraser Environmental Consultancy	Canada
Ahmed	YOUSSEF	Desert Rsearch Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation	Egypt
Ahmed	ALJOHANI	University of Oxford	Saudi Arabia
Ali	BENHMIDENE	Association Tunisienne de l'énergie de l'eau et de l'environnement	Tunisia
Amina	NEWBY	N/A	France
Baudin	FEKOUA	African Parks	Chad
Brahim Siam	AHMAT	African Parks	Chad
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Habib	ALI HAMID	Sahara Conservation	Chad
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Hassan Mohamed	EL SHAER	Desert Research Center	Egypt
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Hitham	ELYAMANY HITHAM	RAED – Arab Network for Environment and Development	Egypt
Hossameldin	ELALKAMY	Fraser Environmental Consultancy	Canada
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Mahmoud	EL-ESSAWY	Josour 2030	Egypt
Mahmoud	MOSTAFA	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Egypt

Maren	FRERKING	Zoo Hannover gGmbH	Germany
Marie	PETRETTO	Marwell Wildlife	Italy
Mark	VAN NIEKERK	International Crane Foundation	France
Martín	ZORDAN	World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)	Spain
Martine	LEJEUNE	N/A	Portugal
Mohamed	HABIB	PhD student	Egypt
Moharram Fouad	EL-BASSIONY	Desert Research Center	Egypt
Mostafa	EL HAKEEM	Desert Research Center	Egypt
Narindra	RAKOTOARIJAONA NADISON	CA17 International	France
Nathan	MESNILDREY	CMS Secretariat	Germany
Omima	SAWAN	Agricultural Research Center	Egypt
Oussama	AHMED ABDELHAMID SALEM	Association Al-Nahda pour le développement agricole, la gestion des ressources en eau et l'irrigation	Egypt
Philippe	CHARDONNET	IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group	France
Hany	HABEBA	Agricultural Extension Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center	Egypt
Raafat	MISAK	Desert Research Center	Egypt
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Tim	WOODFINE	Sahara Conservation	United Kingdom
Violeta	BARRIOS	Sahara Conservation	France
Yosry	KHAFAGY	Egyptian Public Authority for Drainage Projects, MWRI	Egypt
Yves	HINGRAT	Reneco Wildlife International LTD	United Arab Emirates



25th

ANNUAL MEETING

SAHEL & SAHARA INTEREST GROUP

5 - 7 May 2026

Cairo, Egypt

PROGRAMME





SSIG 2026

Meeting Agenda	DAY 1 JOUR 1
Location Lieu	Jewel Zamalek Hotel, Cairo
Date	Tuesday, 05 May 2026
Time Horaires	8:15 to 17:10 hs (Egypt)

Start Début	Description	Speakers Intervenants
8:15	Registration desk open Accueil des participants et inscriptions	
9:15	Welcome to SSIG 2026 Bienvenue au GISS 2026	Tim WOODFINE
9:25	Introduction from RAED Introduction du Réseau Arabe pour l'Environnement et le Développement	Emad ADLY
9:35	Announcements Informations diverses	Moderator Modérateur
Theme - Human/wildlife interactions & ecosystems health: complementary approaches for communities, wildlife and livestock in a desertification context		
Thème - Interactions Homme / faune & santé des écosystèmes : approches complémentaires pour les communautés, la faune sauvage et domestique et l'environnement, dans un contexte de désertification		
9:45	Climate change in the Delta region: strengthening community resilience through collaborative engagement	RAED
10:05	Rewilding as a nature-based solution	Isaline TIHON
10:25	Managing a landscape in motion: pastoralism and conservation in Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve, Chad	Violeta BARRIOS
10:45	Economies rurales et aires protégées : collaboration harmonieuse ou conflit inévitable ? L'exemple des relations pastoralisme et aires protégées au Tchad	Christophe BOUVIER
11:05	COFFEE BREAK & GROUP PICTURE PAUSE- CAFÉ & PHOTO DE FAMILLE	
11:35	Transhumance, translocation and transmission: diseases on the move: health impacts of animal movements on translocated and resident populations	Philippe CHARDONNET Serge Patrick TADJO
11:55	Oasis en renaissance : quand la collaboration devient solution	Ali BENHMIDENE
12:15	Children and nature in Tunisia: changing the educational perspective in the Dghoumes and Bou Hedma National Park areas	Marie PETRETTO
Theme - Restoring species: biology, management and recovery of threatened species		
Thème - Restauration des espèces : biologie, gestion et rétablissement des espèces menacées		
12:35	Celebrating 10 years of the return of the scimitar-horned oryx to Chad	Partnership panel
13:10	LUNCH BREAK PAUSE DÉJEUNER	
14:40	Réintroduction de l'oryx algazelle, de l'addax et de la gazelle dama dans la Réserve de faune de Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim, au Tchad	Habib ALI HAMID
15:00	Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative	Nathan MESNILDREY
15:20	Wadi ElGimal gazelle status survey 2025, findings and results	Adnan Abdelhamid ABDEL-HALIME
15:40	COFFEE BREAK PAUSE- CAFÉ	
16:00	Drivers of distributional changes in Northeast African gazelle in the Holocene: a cross-disciplinary analysis of pharaonic gazelle iconography	Jakob BRO-JORGENSEN
16:20	Population structure and habitat use of the dama gazelle in the Air mountains (Niger): conservation implications	Abdoul Razack MOUSSA ZABEIROU
16:40	Behavioural and ecological traits of the dama mhorh gazelle (<i>Nanger dama mhorh</i> , Bennett 1832) under four different conservation scenarios	Teresa ABAIGAR
17:00	Announcements Informations diverses End of Day 1 Fin de la première journée	
19:30	DEPARTURE from the hotel for cultural evening and dinner DÉPART de l'hôtel pour soirée culturelle et dîner	





SSIG 2026

Meeting Agenda	DAY 2 JOUR 2
Location Lieu	Jewel Zamalek Hotel, Cairo
Date	Wednesday, 06 May 2026
Time Horaires	8:30 to 17:05 hs (Egypt)

Start Début	Description	Speakers Intervenants
8:30	Registration desk open Accueil des participants et inscriptions	
9:00	Welcome to Day 2 - Announcements Jour 2 - Informations	Moderator Modérateur
9:05	Reflecting on 25 years of SSIG	SSIG panel
Theme - Sustaining ecosystems: sustainable management, restoration and conservation of protected areas, with a focus on desert and rangelands		
Thème - Durabilité des écosystèmes : modèles de gestion efficace, de restauration et de conservation des aires protégées, avec un accent particulier sur les zones désertiques et les pâturages		
9:30	Sustainable environmental and tourism development plan in South Sinai "balancing conservation and development"	Yosry KHAFAFY
9:50	Réserves sahélo-sahariennes du Niger : richesses naturelles, défis de conservation et rôles clé des communautés locales	Abdoul Razack MOUSSA ZABEIROU
10:10	Presentation de la Réserve Naturelle et Culturelle de l'Ennedi, Tchad	Issakha GUIRKI
10:30	Gestion intégrée et conservation des ressources naturelles : l'aire protégée de Beampingaratsy à Madagascar	Narindra Hajatiana RAKOTOARIJONA NADISON
10:50	COFFEE BREAK PAUSE- CAFÉ	
11:10	Projet Natur-OROA : amélioration de la gestion de la Réserve de Faune de Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim au bénéfice de la nature et des communautés	Oualbadet MAGOMNA
11:30	Combattre les feux de brousse dans la Réserve de Faune de Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim	Adbderamane MAHAMAT ABDERAHIM
11:50	Water resource dynamics and ecosystem response in arid environments: evidence from the Bouarfa Plain (Morocco)	Hayat HACHIMI
12:10	Reforestation by direct seeding in a predesert protected area, Dghoumes National Park, Tunisia	Koenraad DE SMET
12:30	Beyond tree planting: nature-based solutions supported by carbon markets in arid environments	Sawsan ELAWADY
12:50	North Africa - Arabia sand and dust storms - Risk reduction	Raafat AL-MISAAK
13:10	LUNCH BREAK PAUSE DÉJEUNER	
14:40	Development and management of natural rangelands to combat desertification in the Arab Republic of Egypt	Mostafa AL HAKEEM
15:00	Protentional utilization of halophytes and salt tolerant crops as cash crops in salt affected lands	Hassan EL SHAEER
Theme - Restoring species: biology, management and recovery of threatened species		
Thème - Restauration des espèces : biologie, gestion et rétablissement des espèces menacées		
15:20	Conservation Centers for Species Survival program update	Adam EYRES
15:40	One parasite, three worlds: hydatidosis, a neglected one health threat	Philippe CHARDONNET Moukhtar ALDJIBERT
16:00	Mapping ecological stability of desert herbivore habitats using multi-decadal satellite observations across Egypt	Abdullah NAGY
16:20	Étude d'introduction et d'adaptabilité des ongulés sahélo-sahariens dans la station de conservation de la Réserve de Biosphère de Gadabedji, Niger	Abdoul Nasser MAHAMADOU BOUBE
16:40	The tall order of conserving Africa's northern giraffe: challenges and opportunities	Arthur MUNEZA
17:00	Announcements Informations diverses End of Day 2 Fin de la deuxième journée	
17:05	COFFEE BREAK PAUSE- CAFÉ	





SSIG 2026

Meeting Agenda	DAY 3 JOUR 3
Location Lieu	Jewel Zamalek Hotel, Cairo
Date	Thursday, 07 May 2026
Time Horaires	8:30 to 11:00 hs (Egypt)

Start Début	Description	Speakers Intervenants
8:30	Registration desk opens Accueil des participants et inscriptions	
8:55	Welcome to Day 3 - Announcements Jour 3 - Informations	Moderator Modérateur
Theme - Restoring species: biology, management and recovery of threatened species		
Thème - Restauration des espèces : biologie, gestion et rétablissement des espèces menacées		
9:00	Suivi spatial par balises GPS des grands oiseaux sahéliens : premiers résultats et enjeux de conservation dans la Réserve de Faune de Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim, au Tchad	Cloé POURCHIER
9:20	Comprehensive assessment of the Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) in North Africa: a regional synthesis	Mohamed HABIB
9:40	Réintroduction des autruches d'Afrique du Nord dans la réserve de Biosphère de Gadabedji, au Niger	Maimounatou IBRAHIM MAMADOU
10:00	Réintroduction de l'autruche à cou rouge en Tunisie : progrès et défis critiques	Sahbi BEDHIEF
10:20	Black Crowned Crane Conservation in the Sahel and Northern Savannas: A Flagship for Cross-Regional Collaboration	Mark VAN NIEKERK
10:40	CLOSING REMARKS MOTS DE CLÔTURE End of Meeting Fin de la réunion	
11:00	COFFEE BREAK PAUSE- CAFÉ	
11:25	Side event : Dama gazelle conservation update	

13:30	Departure from the hotel - Optional group visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum Départ de l'hôtel - Visite optionnelle du Grand Musée égyptien
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POSTER SESSION

Meeting Agenda	During all conférence Tout au long de la conférence
Location Lieu	Jewel Zamalek Hotel, Cairo

POSTER SESSION	Rétablissement d'une population de buffles d'Afrique au Parc National de Siniaka-Minia après translocation massive (2022) : suivi démographique, comportemental et nutritionnel sur 3 ans	Baudin FEKOUA
	Temporal activity of the mhorh gazelle (Nanger dama mhorh) under captive conditions	Teresa ABAIGAR
	Identification des menaces pesant sur les vautours au Tchad : premiers résultats	Cloé POURCHIER, Adoum Hassane MAHAMAT ALI, Violeta BARRIOS

