



## The Large Herbivore Network

On 1 July 2010 the Large Herbivore Network, "LHNet" for short ([LHNet.org](http://LHNet.org)), made a new start with a new identity and a new team: Hans Kampf, Mirte Kruit and Manon Kaandorp. LHNet operates as an independent network within ECNC – European Centre for Nature Conservation. The network of ambassadors, experts, volunteers and other enthusiastic people – which originated in the former Large Herbivore Foundation – will continue to support the large herbivores in their landscapes throughout Eurasia.

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## LHNet today

The Eurasian (LHNet) region consists of 57 countries. In these countries we recognize 35 large herbivore species [click here for the species database](#). Working in close cooperation with ecologists, nature managers, zoos and other experts and organizations, we focus on these large herbivores in their landscapes, making use of the possibilities of nature restoration and ecological networks. Why? To improve the situation for large herbivores throughout Eurasia.

One of our first priorities is the European bison, with an accent on the Central European region (Ukraine and neighbouring countries). We are also considering selecting the reindeer in the Russian Arctic, and the Kulan and Bukhara deer in Central Asia, as our main focus. We are investigating how to promote the conservation of the Bezoar goat and other endangered species in the Caucasus area.

Furthermore, important landscape constructors like the wild boar and beaver are seen as essential for ecosystems. But also the possibility of breeding back extinct cattle and investigating how they can fulfil their role in the ecosystem again is part of our vision.



## The LHNet website

With help from IUCN and our expert network we have drawn up a first overview of all 35 species. The redesigned [website of LHNet](#) is now becoming a broad knowledge and information base and includes, among other things, fact sheets on the large herbivores in Eurasia.

The website is an open-source platform for discussion between experts and anybody who is interested in these large mammals in the wild. It provides an excellent opportunity to establish multidisciplinary teams of experts to join forces through the exchange of knowledge and enthusiasm on conservation of endangered large mammal species. We gather data on biology, ecology, land use and socio-economic developments to identify the conservation concerns, solutions and project proposals.



## Why can LHNet make the difference?

LHNet makes a difference by combining practice, experience and knowledge. LHNet mobilizes a network of people who are interested in working together to achieve sustainable solutions for the carefully selected large herbivores which are in great need of conservation action and have not yet attracted the attention of the wider public. It also attempts to influence policies and political developments on international, national and regional scales.



## Two-thirds of these species are under threat

Based on the figures of IUCN's Red List of Endangered Species, it can be concluded that two-thirds (about 65%) of the Eurasian large herbivore species are under serious threat or even on the brink of extinction. We would like to go into more detail on this in our next newsletter.



## Urgent need for photos and other communication materials

Unknown is unpopular! Therefore, we need to show the beauty of wildlife and nature. We have already received many photos for free from our network partners (many thanks for this), but we still urgently need more photos. If you have any photos or other digital materials about the species and their landscapes, please share them with us for non-commercial use.



## Share your knowledge and experience

It is vital that the species fact sheets are kept up to date (in terms of the current ecological situation, conservation needs, past, present and future distribution maps, etc.). Therefore, we need your input. This will stimulate the protection and rehabilitation of large herbivores through projects and other initiatives. Please **email** us to obtain a password which will allow you to share your knowledge on the website.



## Newsletter

From now on the LHNet newsletter will resume regular publication, with news from the Large Herbivore Network supplied by you and many others. We are looking forward to being inspired by input from everyone who is enthusiastic about preserving Eurasia's large herbivores – your news is our news!



## Support LHNet

Experts and others with a passion for large herbivores and nature are most welcome to participate in our network. If your name is missing from the overview of experts, or if you would like to become an ambassador or volunteer, please let us know [lhnet.org/contact](mailto:lhnet.org/contact). Your expertise, help and support can make a difference in our world.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

- - We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2011 - -

Best regards,

Hans Kampf, *Director LHNet*

Manon Kaandorp & Mirte Kruit



## SAVING EURASIA'S WILDLIFE TREASURES

**Christmas** presents are more than welcome - [click here for a donation](#)

LHNet is part of ECNC

**Why are you receiving this newsletter from the Large Herbivore Network?**

You are listed in our database as a contact of the Large Herbivore Network. We hope you are interested in following Eurasia's wildlife treasures in the future. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you can *unsubscribe* below.

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