

The turbulent history of the Przewalski's horse

(*Equus ferus ssp przewalskii*)

1878



The Russian explorer Nikolai Michailowitsch Przewalski brings the skin and skull of a wild horse, hitherto unknown in the western world, to St. Petersburg.

Wild horses were considered to be extinct in Europe after the extinction of the tarpans.

1899-1901



«Successful capture campaigns» by Hagenbeck and Falz Fein: 52 takhi foals arrive in Europe alive.

1947

Last capture of a Przewalski's horse: The mare Orlitza III is transported to Askania-Nova (Ukraine) and plays an important role in further breeding.

1940s

The current population of wild horses descended from 13 founder animals, which have successfully reproduced to this day.

1958

The zoologist Erna Mohr establishes the first stud book. It documents all of the 238 Przewalski's horses that were kept in zoos between 1899 and 1958.

End of 1960s

First exchange of Przewalski's horses between the zoos of Prague and Munich.

1960s

Last sighting of a takhi in the wild (Gun Tamga, Great Gobi B).

1985

Launch of the EAZA Ex-situ Programme (EEP) for Przewalski's horses. At the beginning of the 1990s, the wild horse population exceeds the number of 1,000 animals in human care.

1985

Evaluation of possible resettlement areas in Mongolia by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

1991

Christian Oswald sets up the enclosures at takhin tal.

1992

First transports of Przewalski's horses from Askania-Nova to Takhin Tal and from Europe to Hustai Nuuru (another resettlement area near Ulanbaatar).

1997

At Takhin tal, the first wild horses are being released from the acclimatization enclosure into freedom.

1992-2004



A total of 89 Przewalski's horses were transported from Europe to Takhin tal.



Foundation of the International Takhi Group (ITG)

1999

The work of the various organizations is bundled under the first President Jean-Pierre Siegfried.

2006



Construction of the National Park House and research infrastructure.

2007

First transport within Mongolia: Three stallions from Hustai Nuruu are transported into the Great Gobi B.

2010

The cold harsh winter leads to a population decline: only a third (approx. 50 animals) survives.

2012

Four stallions from the Jimsar breeding station in northern China are moved to the Great Gobi B.

2012-2021

Every year, Prague Zoo and the Czech Air Force transport four mares from the EAZA Ex-situ Programme (EEP) to the Takhin tal, guaranteeing a high level of genetic variability.

2017

The Takhi Resettlement Projects in Mongolia celebrate 25 years of resettlement.

2017

At Takhin tal, a population size of 200 takhi is reached.

2020

The habitat of the takhi, the Great Gobi B Strictly Protected Area, is doubled to an area of 18,000 km².

2020

For the first time, the population size exceeds 300 animals.

historical facts from: Jiri Volf "Das Urwildpferd" ISBN 3 89432 471 6

Film about the beginnings of the resettlement at Takhin tal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tMFyL5PRr0>