



Proceedings of the National Workshop for Reviewing the Arabian Oryx Regional Strategy and Action Plan

6th November 2019, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

www.arabianoryx.org





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The General Secretariat for the Conservation of the Arabian Oryx (GSCAO) is a regional initiative with a key role of supporting all efforts to protect and conserve the Arabian Oryx, to agree regional criteria and standards, and to coordinate efforts between range states. GSCAO is hosted by the Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi.

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Cover photo: An Arabian Oryx herd in Abu Dhabi (©EAD)

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Table of Contents

	Page number
Executive summary	
1 Introduction	7
2 Workshop Agenda and the welcome speech	9
3 Workshop objectives	12
4 Abstracts of oral presentations	15
5 Stakeholder expectations from GSCAO	17
6 Group Discussions	20
7 General recommendations	34
8 Next steps	35
Appendix 1	
Participants' feedback on the workshop	36
Appendix 2	
List of workshop participants	40



A group photo of the participants at the National Workshop for Reviewing the Arabian Oryx Regional Strategy and Action Plan, 6th November 2019, Abu Dhabi, UAE (© EAD)

Executive summary

The National Workshop for Reviewing the Arabian Oryx Regional Strategy and Action Plan was organized and hosted by the Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi (EAD) on 6th November 2019 at Al Mamoura Building A in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The workshop was attended by 32 conservation managers, biologists, veterinarians and conservation officers from several Oryx collections and environmental entities in the UAE. The goal of the workshop was to conduct a national assessment of the implementation of the Arabian Oryx Regional Strategy and Action Plan which was developed in 2010. During the workshop, participants identified gaps, challenges to areas relevant to information sharing and technical capacity building, as well as proposed recommendations on how best the existing objectives of the 2010 Regional Strategy can be addressed into the updated strategy for 2020-2025.

The Workshop participants agreed that the current Arabian Oryx Regional Strategy and Action Plan should be updated with a more focus on the need for reintroduction and habitat assessment, herd quality, genetic management, public engagement in Oryx conservation, capacity building, and identifying resources for implementation. The updated strategy should include specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for monitoring and assessing the progress of implementation. Arabian Oryx collections should as well take a leading role in implementation of the strategy and reporting to GSCAO with necessary progress, gaps and adaptive management measures. GSCAO will incorporate this national assessment with a more regional one which is scheduled to take place by the end of 2020. Both the UAE and the regional assessments will drive the formulation of an updated Regional Strategy for the Conservation of the Arabian Oryx for the next five years (2020-2025).

1 Introduction

The Arabian Oryx Regional Strategy and Action Plan was developed in 2010 by national collections of Arabian Oryx conservation in the range states. The regional strategy is a means to achieve seven objectives at both national and regional levels. These multidimensional objectives include:

- Complete legislative process in all range states and enhance enforcement of wildlife legislation
- Enhance and increase wild Oryx populations
- Establish a regional species management plan
- Secure public support for, and participation in, Arabian Oryx programmes
- Build adequate region-wide capacity for all aspects of Arabian Oryx conservation
- Secure coordination between range states
- Secure financial sustainability

The General Secretariat for the Conservation of the Arabian Oryx (GSCAO) has worked closely with national collections of Arabian Oryx in the range states including UAE to encourage them to implement the regional strategy at the national level. Key achievements include:

- Organizing technical capacity-building workshops on specific conservation themes related to Arabian Oryx in the region (e.g. disease management, herd management practices, population genetics, records keeping)
- Surveying Arabian Oryx diseases in the range states
- Developing position papers on critical management issues (e.g. status of wilderness and overpopulation)
- Developing the first ever Arabian Oryx Housing and Husbandry guidelines in the region
- Cementing GSCAO as a regional voice and platform for information sharing and capacity building in Arabian Oryx conservation.

At the 6th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee for the Conservation of the Arabian Oryx (CCCAO), held in December 2018, range states agreed on the need to update the 2010 Arabian Oryx Conservation Strategy and Action Plan as it will help to prioritize conservation issues and resources. Since the mission of the GSCAO, as agreed at the 5th and 6th meeting of CCCAO, is to serve as a regional information source and a capacity building hub for Arabian Oryx conservation in the region, the updated regional strategy will devote its goals, objectives and relevant tasks to deliver this mission while outlining specific objectives at the national level in the range state.

The current national workshop was a great opportunity to gather conservation managers and wildlife experts who work in Oryx collections in UAE to hear their feedback and recommendations on the current regional strategy. Given that UAE accommodates the largest collections of Arabian Oryx in the region, this national level feedback will be integrated into a broader regional level review of the regional strategy in 2021. It is expected that the updated regional strategy of GSCAO will be published by 2022.



Arabian Oryx herd at Sir Bani Yas Island of Abu Dhabi, UAE (© Department of Culture and Tourism- Abu Dhabi).

2 Workshop agenda and the welcome speech

The workshop was opened with a welcome speech delivered by Mr. Ahmed Esmaeil Al Hashmi, the Acting Executive Director of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector (TMBS) at EAD.



Mr. Ahmed Esmaeil Al Hashmi, Acting Executive Director of TMBS, EAD (© EAD)

The welcome speech highlighted the followings Key messages:

- EAD is honoured to host and fund GSCAO which has successfully cemented itself as an interactive platform that facilitates capacity building and information sharing amongst Arabian Oryx conservation institutions in the Arabian Peninsula.
- Our keenness to protect the Arabian Oryx complement the pioneering efforts initiated by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who has been untiring in his endeavour to preserve the Arabian Oryx, which symbolizes the natural and cultural heritage of the UAE.
- This workshop is great opportunity to identify gaps and challenges in the current Regional Strategy and Action Plan and to find solutions to address these challenges in the updated Strategy.
- The goal with this workshop is to work towards a practical Regional strategy that can address conservation priorities at both the local and regional level as well as pave the way forward for the next 5 years (2020-2025).

Following the welcome speech, Rajeyah BinKulaib presented the workshop's goal, its agenda, the expected outcomes and the forward actions. The achievements of the GSCAO's five-year work plan (2015-2019) was presented. The First ever Arabian Oryx Housing and Husbandry guidelines were also presented during the workshop. Other sessions of the workshop focused on identifying gaps and challenges in the current Regional Strategy. Participants were requested to assess the seven individual objectives of the current Regional strategy and propose solutions that can be incorporated into the updated strategy (Table 1).

Table 1. The workshop agenda

Agenda	Speaker/Moderator	Time
Registration		08:30-09:15
Welcome remarks, EAD	Ahmed Al Hashemi	09:15-09:30
Overview talk about the workshop, objectives, expected outputs and forward actions	Rajeyah Binkulaib	09:30-9:45
The status of conservation efforts of Arabian Oryx in UAE and the GSCAO's 5-year strategic workplan: achievements and future update	Yassir H. Al Kharusi,	9:45-10:00
Arabian Oryx Housing and Husbandry Guidelines: A big step forward Feedback of participants on the housing guidelines	Myyas Al Quarqaz,	10:00-10:15
Briefing participants on the 2010 Arabian Oryx Regional Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and key identified gaps	Nessrine Alzahlawi & Yassir Al Kharusi	10:15-10:30
Coffee Break and completing the questionnaire		10:30-10:45

Group discussion: Participants feedback on objectives 2 and 3 of the regional strategy	Briefing and general moderation by Declan O'Donovan Greg, Myyass, Hessa, Yassir & Nessrine	10:45-12:30
Prayer and Lunch		12:30-13:30
Group discussion: Participants feedback on objectives 4 and 5 of the regional strategy	Briefing and general moderation by Declan O'Donovan Moderators for each table/group: Greg, Myyass, Hessa, Yassir & Nessrine	13:30-14:30
Reporting back from group discussions	moderated by Declan O'Donovan	14:30- 15:00
Open discussion: Objectives, 1, 6 and 7	moderated by Yassir & Nessrine	15:00-15:30
Coffee Break and completing the workshop feedback survey		15:30-15:45
Open discussion- -How can national collections effectively contribute to the regional strategy and the GSCAO's strategic workplan? (questionnaire results) -Searching for a cost-effective mechanism by which national collections can report progress of their conservation plans to GSCAO: measuring implementation	moderated by Yassir Al Kharusi, Greg Simkins and Declan O'Donovan	15:45- 16:20
Forward steps and closing remarks	(Nessrine Alzahlawi, EAD)	16:20 -16:30

3 Workshop objectives

The workshop was attended by 32 wildlife experts, veterinarians and conservation managers from UAE. The specific objectives of the one-day workshop were to:

- Present an updated conservation status of Arabian Oryx in the UAE
- Identify national challenges facing Arabian Oryx in the UAE, as well as lessons learnt over previous years of Arabian Oryx conservation
- Review the Regional Strategy and Action Plan to identify gaps and challenges in areas related to information sharing and capacity building at the national level
- Agree on a mechanism that could foster communication between national collections and GSCAO in relation to Arabian Oryx conservation in UAE.



Rajeyah Binkulaib, a Senior Analyst at EAD, presented the objectives, agenda and expected outcomes of the workshop (©EAD)



Myyas Al Quarqaz briefed participants on Arabian Oryx Housing and Husbandry Guidelines (©EAD)



A working group at the workshop ((©EAD)



Some of the workshop participants (©EAD)

4 Abstracts of oral presentations

The status of conservation efforts of Arabian Oryx in UAE and the GSCAO's 5-year strategic workplan: achievements and future update

Yassir H. Al Kharusi, EAD

This presentation provided some key updates about the Arabian Oryx conservation efforts in UAE which had 7500 Arabian Oryx in 2018. Current challenges facing the Oryx conservation in UAE include overpopulation in captive and release sites, prolonged drought, space limitation, as well as unsustainable management practices (e.g. lack of standardization in herd management and records keeping). Over the previous years, GSCAO has successfully invested in knowledge sharing and capacity building that could provide conservation managers and veterinarians with sound management practices. Since 2015, GSCAO has organized five technical workshops that were attended by wildlife biologists, veterinarians, researchers, and conservation managers in the range states. These workshops focused on key Oryx challenges seeking practical solutions through which international standards in herd management can be met. In 2018, GSCAO published the first ever guidelines on housing and husbandry practices of Arabian Oryx populations in the region. GSCAO will continue in the future to devote its resources in organizing technical workshops and develop management guidelines that can enhance the conservation of this flagship species in the Arabian Peninsula.

Arabian Oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) housing and husbandry guidelines

Myyas Ahmed Al Quarqaz, Al Ain Zoo

The Arabian Oryx housing and husbandry guidelines were developed in 2018 with a key purpose of sharing knowledge, experience and skills on Arabian Oryx management. The guidelines, which were written by a voluntary group of Oryx experts in UAE, set recommendations for the minimum requirements of herd management in terms of housing, nutrition, veterinary care, handling, transport, individual identification, as well as genetics. Arabian Oryx collections in the range states are urged to implement the standards and practices in the guidelines and to provide GSCAO with feedback upon which they can be updated. The work of the guidelines was facilitated by GSCAO and funded by EAD. The Arabian Oryx housing and husbandry guidelines are available for download at www.arabianoryx.org.

The 2010 Arabian Oryx Regional Conservation Strategy and Action Plan: Key identified gaps and next actions

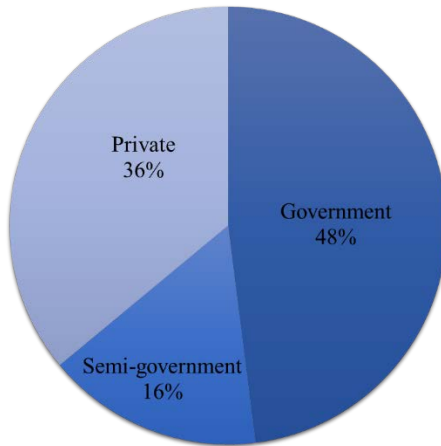
Nessrine Alzahlawi, EAD

The Arabian Oryx Regional Conservation Strategy and Action Plan was endorsed by range states in 2010. The Regional Strategy has set a wide optimistic goal of developing a regional conservation programme for the restoration of Arabian Oryx in their natural habitats that ensure its survival and carry out successful reintroductions in north and south of its historic range. The initial threats addressed by the 2010 regional strategy include poaching, illegal trade, habitat loss, disease and inbreeding. During the nine years of implementing the regional strategy, there have been several changes, challenges and gaps which arose. Key identified gaps in the current strategy include 1) lack of ownership of each objective and tasks; 2) lack of SMART objectives, clear targets and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that measure that progress of implementation; 4) lack of agreed timeframe for implementation; 5) institution roles and resources are not specifically identified and 6) the lack of an established legal framework formalizing the commitment of the parties to the regional strategy and the work of GSCAO. GSCAO will ensure to address and find solutions to such gaps when updating the 2010 Regional strategy. GSCAO will also work more closely with its strategic partners to catalyze them to contribute more to the regional work of Arabian Oryx conservation and to find appropriate resources and communication for putting plans into actions.

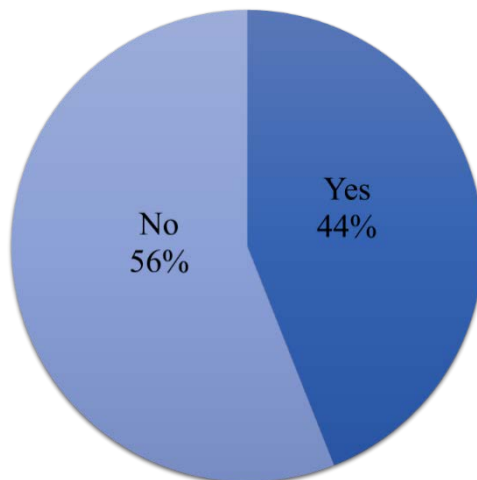
5 Stakeholder expectations from GSCAO

A questionnaire was distributed to the workshop participants to gather information on the barriers to their institutions participating more actively with GSCAO, as well as their expectations of it. The following graphs are based on the 25 participant who answered to this questionnaire.

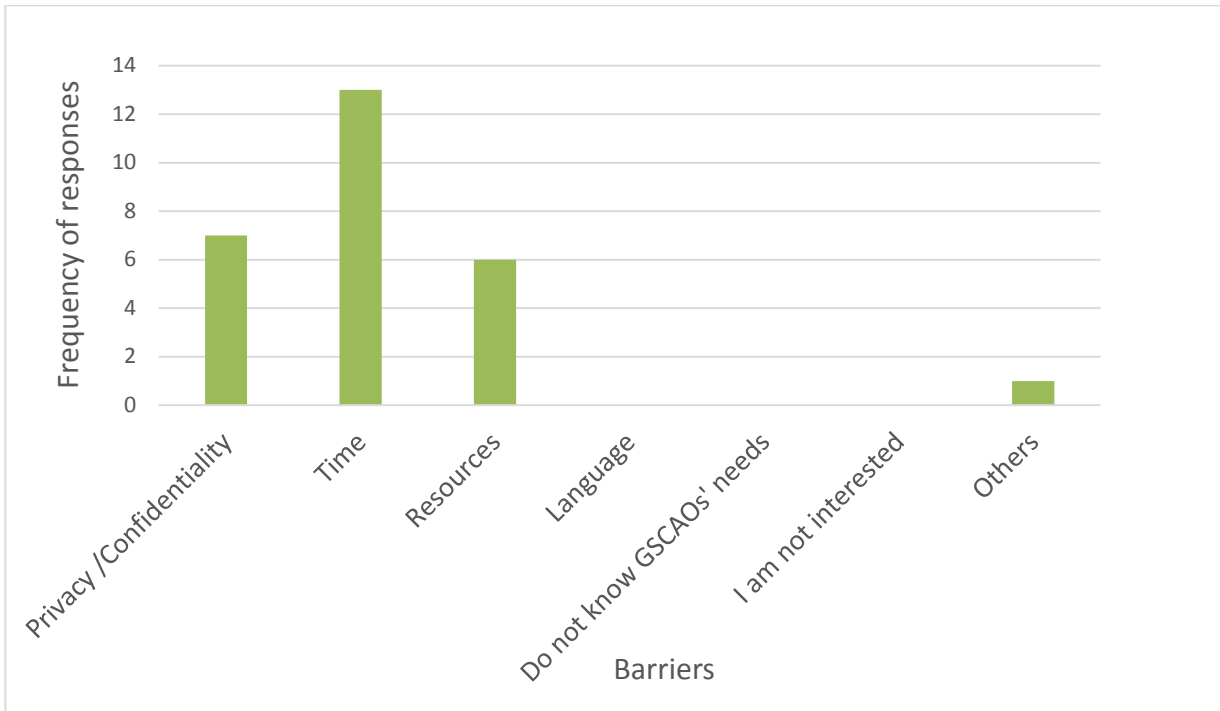
Q1. In which category does your institution fall?



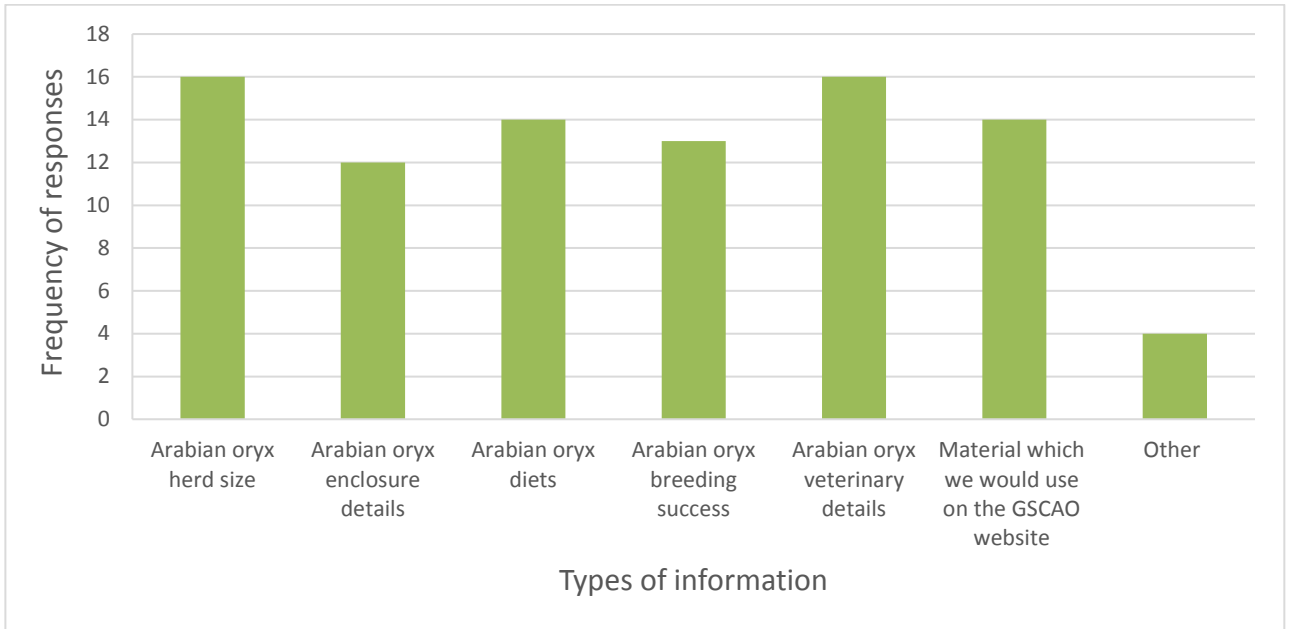
Q2. Is this the first time you attend an event organised by the GSCAO?



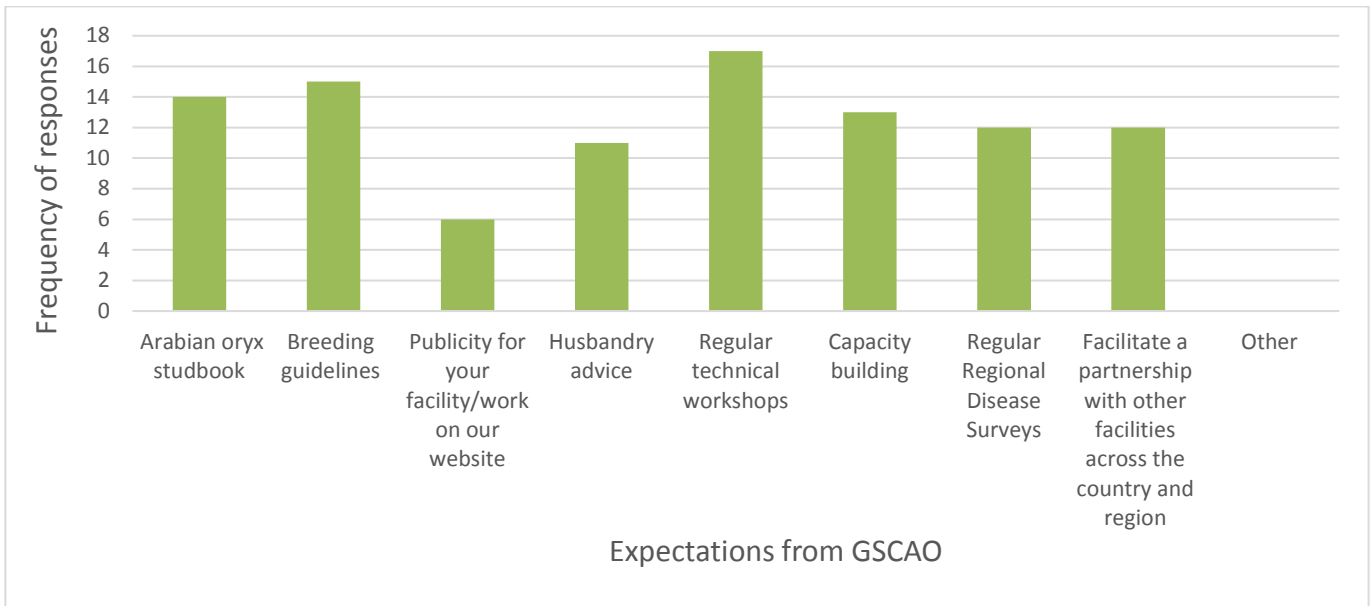
Q3. What are the barriers/difficulties limiting your/your institution's participation in the activities of the GSCAO? (technical workshops, disease survey, development of guidelines, position papers etc.) (You can select more than one answer)



Q4. What information would you be willing to share with GSCAO? (You can select more than one answer)



Q5. What would you like from GSCAO? (You can select more than one answer)



6 Group Discussions

6.1 Assessment method

(Facilitated by Declan O'Donovan)

(Co-facilitation: Nessrine Alzahlawi, Yassir H. Al Kharusi, Hessa Al Qahtani, Myyas Al Quarqaz & Rajeyah Binkulaib)

Following the oral presentations, participants were subdivided into four groups to discuss each of the seven objectives of the regional strategy.

Objective 1: Complete legislative process in all range states and enhance enforcement of wildlife legislation

Objective 2: Enhance and increase wild Oryx populations

Objective 3: Establish a regional species management plan

Objective 4: Secure public support for, and participation in, Arabian Oryx programmes

Objective 5: Build adequate region-wide capacity for all aspects of Arabian Oryx conservation

Objective 6: Secure coordination between range states

Objective 7: Secure financial sustainability

Each group consisted of 5-6 participants and had a moderator that was equipped with specific questions for each objective. Objectives 2, 3, 4 and 5 were prioritized and given more time (two hours and 45 minutes collectively) for discussions as they are at the heart of GSCAO's mission in sharing knowledge and identifying capacity building needs of Arabian Oryx conservationists in UAE. Each objective was assessed through four key questions:

- What has been achieved for the objective on the ground from the birth of the regional strategy in 2010 to 2019?
- How should this objective be reflected or replaced with in the updated strategy (2020-2025)?
- What are the roles of GSCAO and local stakeholders in UAE in delivering the objectives of the updated strategy (2020-2025)?
- What resources are needed to implement the objectives and activities of the updated strategy (2020-2025)?

Participants were requested to answer these questions for the seven objectives of the 2010 Regional Strategy with the best knowledge that they possess. They were also provided with some documents that can help and guide them in the assessment.

Examples of these documents include GSCAO publications (e.g. disease survey reports, Arabian Oryx Housing and Husbandry Guidelines) and other publications for assessing the success of reintroductions.



A collection of Arabian Oryx at Al Ain Zoo, UAE (© Al Ain Zoo)



An adult male Arabian Oryx at Sir Bani Yas Island of Abu Dhabi, UAE (© Department of Culture and Tourism- Abu Dhabi)

6.2 Assessment results

Table 2. A summary of the assessment results of the Arabian Oryx Regional Strategy and Action Plan

Objectives no.	Progress made from 2010-2019	Identified gaps	Recommendations
Objective 1: Complete legislative process in all range states and enhance enforcement of wildlife legislation	Current laws are sufficient to secure Arabian Oryx	Law enforcement on the ground not sufficient Lack of Enforcement of laws on captive management practices Awareness of wildlife legislation is weak	Ranger training on implementation of wildlife laws
Final group assessments of Objective 1	This objective should be merged into the information sharing and capacity building in the updated strategy		
Objectives 2: Enhance and increase wild Oryx populations	UAE has three key release sites of Arabian Oryx including (Arabian Oryx Protected Area in Abu Dhabi, Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DDCR) and Al Marmoum Reserve of Dubai.	No scientific assessment of Oryx reintroductions in the UAE has been done so far The level of intervention into reintroduced populations has not been reassessed	Develop national criteria for successful reintroductions. The criteria should integrate the IUCN guidelines for successful reintroductions Oryx Reintroductions in UAE should be assessed and reviewed based on the national successful criteria for reintroductions Management intervention into released individuals should be clearly

		<p>Release programmes have been focusing on increase individuals as key criteria for success</p> <p>Finding new release sites in UAE is challenging</p> <p>No capacity building training for multidisciplinary reintroduction teams in UAE</p>	<p>identified and periodically assessed</p> <p>Management priority should be achieving high quality individuals rather than quantity focusing on numbers</p> <p>Focus should be given on conducting habitat availability and assessment to identify new release sites and obtaining government support for allocating these sites</p> <p>Establish training on reintroduction monitoring and habitat assessment</p>
<p>Final group assessments of Objective 2</p>	<p>This objective should be revised to specifically focus on reintroduction and habitat assessment, herd quality which are carried out by a well-trained reintroduction team</p> <p>Proposed: Enhance Arabian Oryx releases with information and scientific assessment of population and habitat</p>		
<p>Objective 3: Establish a regional species management plan</p>	<p>Some genetic assessments have been conducted in few collections (e.g. Al Ain zoo, Al Bustan Zoological Centre and EAD)</p> <p>There is one document on Oryx herd management guidelines</p> <p>Oryx collections in UAE have their own management protocols</p>	<p>No national assessment of the performance of captive programmes in UAE</p> <p>Genetic assessment of current populations has not been prioritized by Oryx collections</p> <p>Release protocols are not well defined due to difficulty of doing releases</p>	<p>Collect representative genetic samples from all collections in UAE for demographic and genetic assessment</p> <p>Develop release protocols that are agreed nationally and regionally</p>

	The GSCAOs' disease survey reports	<p>National studbook challenges that include lack of professional records keeping, capacity and genetic data</p> <p>No local facilities to conduct genetic assessment. Other international organisations could be involved such as Zoological Society of London (ZSL)</p>	<p>Start providing the necessary requirements of establishing the national studbook</p> <p>GSCAO can take the lead in establishing contact and developing agreement with a certified testing facility for future testing</p>
Final group assessments of Objective 3	<p>This objective should be revised to be:</p> <p>Establish a national genetic resource management plan for Arabian Oryx</p>		

<p>Objective 4: Secure public support for, and participation in, Arabian Oryx programmes</p>	<p>Good public awareness on Arabian Oryx</p>	<p>Some institutions use Information on Oryx that is old and outdated</p>	<p>Develop a communication action plan with shared roles and actions</p> <p>Identify potential target audience for awareness</p> <p>Establish collaborative efforts towards producing awareness materials and sharing it through one central hub for all to use</p> <p>Citizen scientists programmes through biosphere expeditions</p> <p>Initiate a network of expert speakers to give public lectures about Arabian Oryx to community groups/majlis sessions/ tourists at hotels where Oryx are found</p> <p>Develop a more interactive website of GSCAO</p> <p>GSCAO to establish more coordination</p>
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		<p>No national assessment on the effectiveness of educational programmes on attitude and behavior of the public</p>	<p>with Oryx institutions in UAE</p> <p>GSCAO to develop a unified assessment format that can be shared with collections for assessing the effectiveness of their Oryx educational programmes</p>
<p>Final group assessments of Objective 4</p>	<p>The objective should be kept as it is:</p> <p>To secure public support for, and participation in, Arabian Oryx programmes</p>		
<p>Objective 5: Build adequate region-wide capacity for all</p>	<p>A gap analysis has been conducted on the training needs (e.g. herd management, record keeping, genetic management)</p>	<p>Limitation of resources to conduct training courses and workshops</p>	<p>Oryx collections should make more initiatives to host GSCAO workshops</p>

aspects of Arabian Oryx conservation	Some national and regional workshops have been organized on disease management, herd management, records keeping, standardization practices and genetic management	Little training for the actual operators on the ground (e.g. rangers, keepers)	Establish a working group to identify training needs and be mentioned in the updated strategy Training should target different staff levels Develop a template for measuring training success and implementation Husbandry guidelines should be printed and distributed to field staff Establish exchange visits for public collections to share best practices on health, disease prevention, housing. Develop a crisis management plan and actions
Final group assessments of Objective 5	This objective should be revised to be as follow: Identify and build field-oriented training programmes that can enhance the knowledge and skills of conservation staff at Arabian Oryx collections		
		No risk assessment and emergency response in Arabian Oryx collections	

Objective 6: Secure coordination between range states	<p>GSCAO has achieved a great success in establishing a network of Oryx collections in the range states</p> <p>A list of national focal points in the range states have been established</p> <p>Technical workshops have been successful in expanding stakeholder engagement in identifying priorities and solutions to regional conservation challenges</p>	<p>Communication tools for some collections still not clear</p> <p>Collections do not report to GSCAO their annual plans and progress</p> <p>The role of national focal points needs to be reviewed</p> <p>GSCAO needs a clear legal status</p>	<p>GSCAO is to work more closely with collections to identify the appropriate communication means</p>
Final assessment group of Objective 6	<p>This objective should be kept as it is in the updated strategy for 2020-2025</p>		
Objective 7: Secure financial sustainability	<p>EAD has generously hosted and funded GSCAO and its conservation activities</p> <p>Some Oryx collections in the range states has significantly contributed to funding GSCAOs' meetings and workshops</p> <p>GSCAO has greatly invested in establishing partnerships with Oryx collections in the region</p>	<p>GSCAOs' resources are not clearly identified</p> <p>The level of Range states commitment to host GSCAOs' workshops and meetings still not as expected</p> <p>The implementation of agreed GSCAO's five-year plan (2015-2019) has not been completed</p>	<p>Identify priority issues for Arabian Oryx conservation for (2020-2025)</p> <p>Approach potential collections in the range states for sponsoring and hosting GSCAO activities</p> <p>Empower national focal points in the range states to find out sponsors at their home countries</p>
Final assessment group of Objective 7	<p>GSCAO is to continue contacting Oryx collections and other potential entities for sponsoring and hosting its events and publications.</p>		

6.3 Proposed targets and Reporting tools

Table 3. Proposed targets and activities of the Regional Strategy of Arabian Oryx Conservation for the next five years (2020-2025)

Target	Activity	Lead role	Support role
Target 1.1: Establish a national assessment of release programmes	Activity 1.1.1: Create a working group for assessment criteria and methods	GSCAO/Government	Oryx collections
	Activity 1.1.2: Contact collections for assessment	GSCAO	Oryx collections
	Activity 1.1.3: Conduct a site-based assessment of release programmes	Oryx collections	GSCAO
	Activity 2.1.4: Publish assessment reports and recommendations	Oryx collections & Government	GSCAO
Target 1.2: Establish unified monitoring parameters for Oryx reintroductions	Activity 2.2.1: Create a working group for identifying key parameters for successful reintroductions	GSCAO	Oryx collections
Target 2.1 Arabian Oryx national studbook developed	Study the project feasibility	GSCAO/ working group	Oryx collections
Target 3.1 Conduct genetic assessment of the available Oryx population	Activity 3.1.1: Establish a working group to develop a proposal of the project	GSCAO	Oryx collections
	Activity 3.1.2: Establish a reference genome	Government/Oryx collections	GSCAO
	Activity 3.1.3: Collect and analyse samples for individual Oryx which are genetically important to species conservation	Oryx collections	GSCAO

	Activity 3.1.4: Identify genetically important populations and individuals	Oryx collections	GSCAO
	Activity 3.1.5: Prepare final report	Oryx collections	GSCAO
Target 4.1 Strengthen intercommunication between GSCAO and Oryx collections	Activity 4.1.1: Conduct field visits to Oryx collections in UAE	GSCAO	Oryx collections
	Activity 4.1.2: Identify gaps and challenges that face GSCAO-collection collaboration	GSCAO & Oryx collections	
	Activity 4.1.3: Prepare a site-base report and identify an agreed mechanism of collaboration	GSCAO	Oryx collections
	Activity 4.1.3: GSCAO sends its technical and media requirements to Oryx collections	GSCAO	Oryx collections



An Arabian Oryx calf at Dubai Desert Reserve (DDCR), UAE (©DDCR)

6.4 Reporting tools

In this part of the discussions, the workshop participants identified the appropriate means of communication through which they can report their collections' progress and activities related to the implementation of the GSCAO's regional strategy (Table 3). Some participants selected more than one answer from the communication list. That was understandable based on the nature of their field work and facility policy in communicating with external entities.

Table 3 Preferred communication tools with GSCAO as reported by the workshop participants.

Communication tool	Frequency of responses	% of the total responses
E-mail	15	39
Phone call	9	24
Official letters	5	13
Template survey requesting specific questions	9	24
Total	38	100

Participants also urged GSCAO to develop a mailing list consisting of conservation managers, researchers, field biologists, veterinarians and other specialists who work in Arabian Oryx breeding and management facilities in UAE and the region.

7 General Recommendations

- GSCAO is to take the initiative to establish a scientific assessment of the performance of the Arabian Oryx reintroductions in the UAE. This assessment is crucial to understand the current status of reintroductions in the country, identify gaps, challenges and design monitoring tools that integrate the requirements of successful reintroductions as per international criteria. Local Arabian Oryx institutions in UAE is to provide GSCAO with necessary data for reintroduction assessment which is proposed to take place in November 2020.
- GSCAO is to develop an action plan that can guide Oryx collections in UAE to integrate some regional conservation goals into their programmes and management plans. Local Oryx collections in UAE are expected to annually update GSCAO with the integration process into their management plans. This action is proposed to take place in March 2021.
- GSCAO is to develop specific KPIs for monitoring and assessing the progress of the updated regional strategy (2020-2025). The KPIs are expected to be developed during the first quarter of 2021.
- Local Arabian Oryx collections in UAE are encouraged to frequently provide GSCAO with periodic management reports and media materials that can be used in GSCAO's website and its publications. GSCAO will frequently follow up this task in 2020 with local collections to obtain reports and media materials.
- GSCAO is to develop and circulate a questionnaire to Oryx collections to assess the implementation of the herd management guidelines for future updates. It is expected that local collections to fill out this questionnaire and return to GSCAO during the requested timeframe. The questionnaire is expected to be developed by the end of 2020.
- GSCAO/EAD representatives are to make frequent visits in 2021 to Arabian Oryx collections in UAE for face-to-face meetings of how best the regional strategy of Arabian Oryx conservation can be implemented on the ground.

8 Next steps

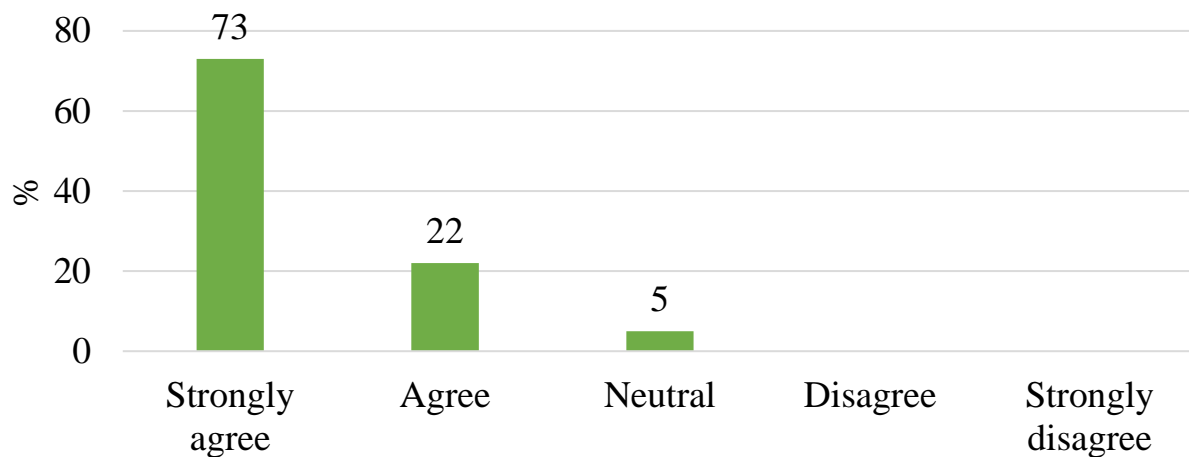
Depending on the availability of resources and a host, GSCAO will plan to invite conservation managers, field biologists, veterinarians and other wildlife specialists from the rest of range states to a meeting for a regional assessment of the 2010 Regional Strategy. Both the UAE and the regional assessments will drive the formulation of an updated Regional Strategy for the Conservation of the Arabian Oryx for the next five years (2020-2025). Once the new strategy is written, it will be communicated to Arabian Oryx collections in the range states via the national focal points for endorsement and implementation. GSCAO will monitor the implementation progress of the new strategy through KPIs standards.

Appendix I:

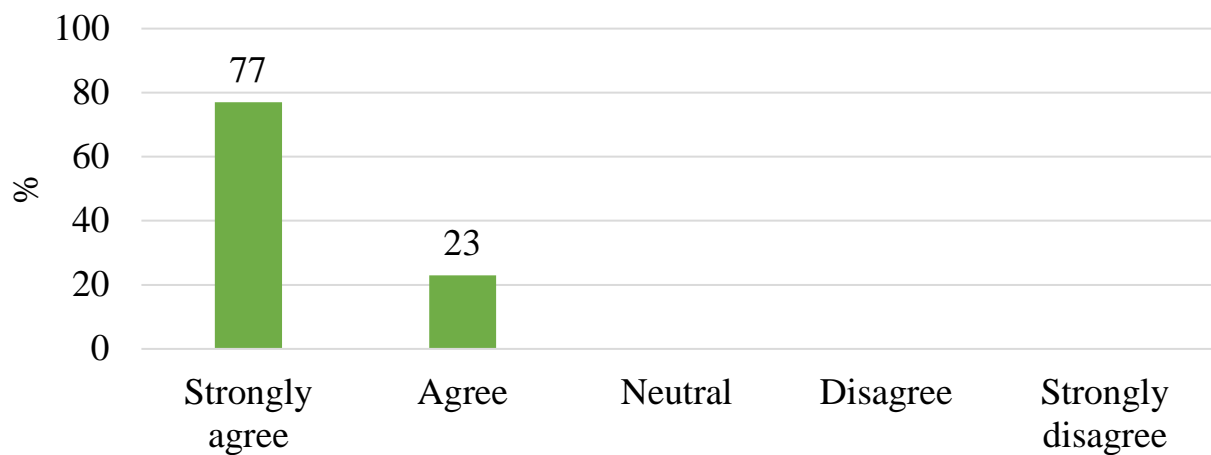
Participants' feedback on the workshop

By the end of the workshop, participants were requested to voluntarily answer a feedback survey to assess their points of views on technical and logistical elements of the workshop. The following graphs summarize the results of this survey.

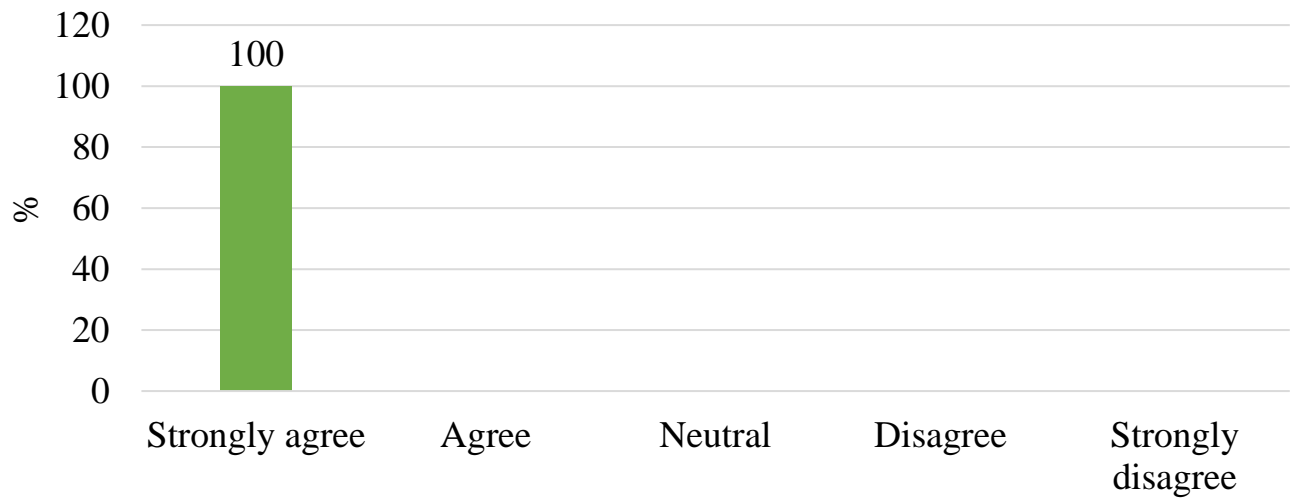
Workshop objectives were stated and related to my job



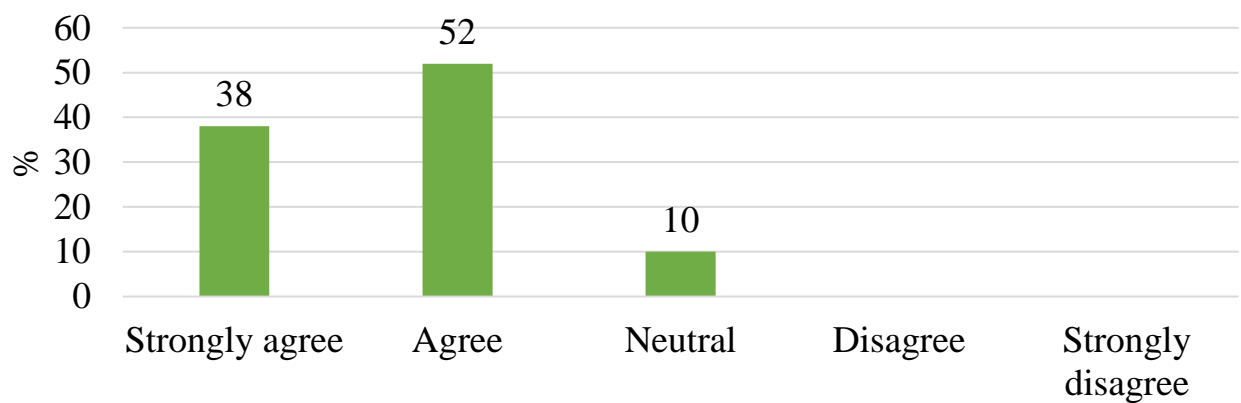
The information presented and discussed was of value

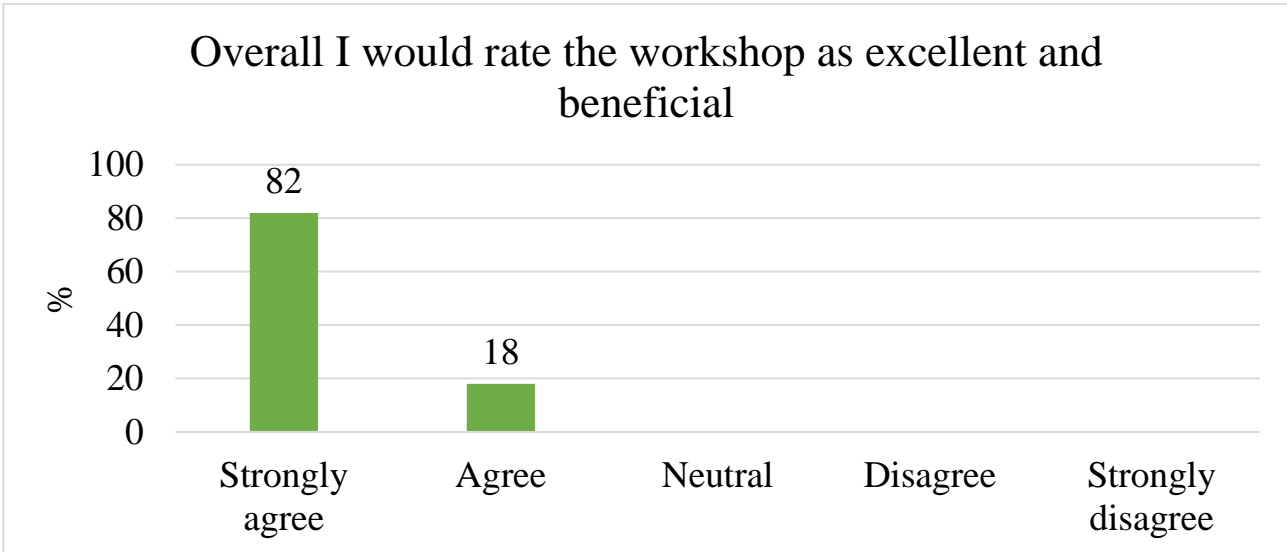
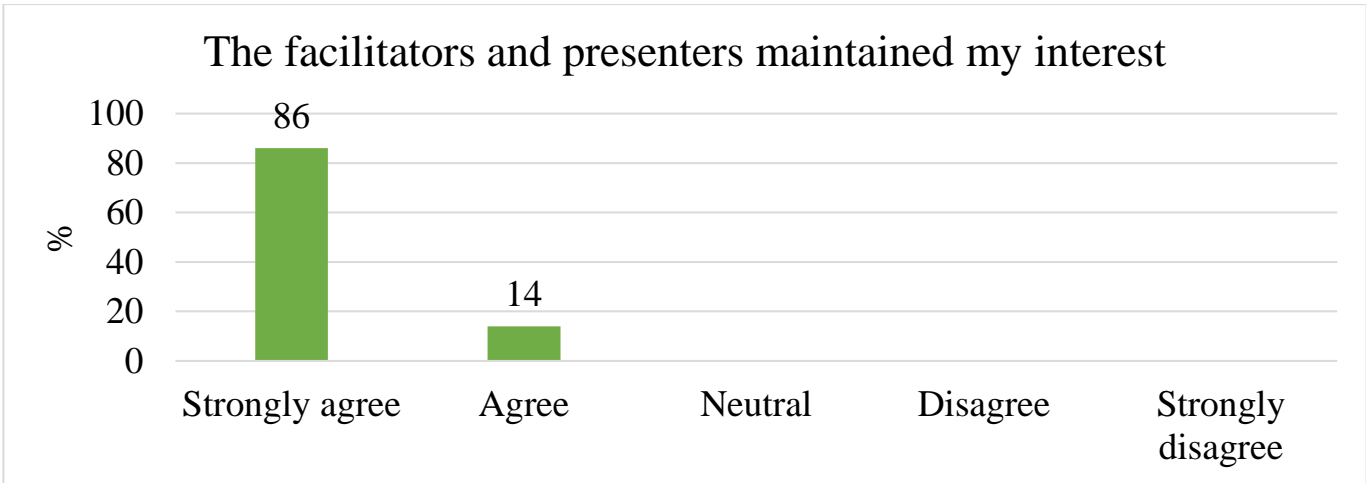


I was given the opportunity for discussing and presenting my point of views related to the workshop topic



I will be able to transfer the workshop information to my job





Appendix 2:

List of workshop participants

	Name	Institution	E-mail
1	Braelee Hewlett	Emirates Wildlife Park	braelee@emiratespark.ae
2	Filip Wouters	Environment and Protected Areas Authority, Sharjah-EPAA	Filip.wouters@vives.be
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10	Adriana Nielsen	Wadi Al Safa Wildlife	Adriana@dfh.ae
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