

JEAN-PIERRE AND SONJA SIEGFRIED FOUNDATION



To ensure the survival of the takhi horse and the preservation of the Gobi desert as a habitat for animals and humans.

The takhi (or Przewalski horse) is the only wild species of horse to have never been domesticated. They survived in shelters and zoos around the world and since 1992 have been successfully resettled by the «International Takhi Group» (ITG) into their last retreat, the Dsungari Gobi desert.

Today more than 100 takhi roam the width of the Gobi desert and the species now plays a key part in preserving this spacious steppe. Thanks to the takhi, other wild animals are also protected and sustaining this habitat allows the native nomads to continue their traditional way of life.



History of the takhi: back to their homeland

Ever since 1967, when the last takhi was observed at the source «Takhin-Uus», the species was said to be extinct in the wild. However, at the beginning of the 20th century, a small number of takhi were taken to various zoos all over the world, where over the years they were bred with more and more success. This enabled the species to survive to today. In 1974, 7 years after the sighting of the last takhi, the Mongolian government declared the vast 9000 square kilometer region between the mountain range of

Altai and the border to China to be a «Strictly Protected Area» (SPA). Starting in 1992 takhi began being shipped to Mongolia in costly and risky transports. These horses were the basis of the still fragile, but increasingly vigorous population of takhi now living wild in the protected area of the Gobi desert. The total number of takhi varies mainly due to the weather – winters with lots of snow like 2009/10 have claimed the lives of many horses.

THE TAKHI WILL NOT DECLINE



Protection of the habitat is the first priority: Strictly Protected Area

The resettlement of the takhi has been very successful. In order to ensure the survival of the takhi over the long term, it is essential for there to be enough suitable habitat.

The Gobi B Strictly Protected Area is not only a vast area, but it has also been granted the highest preservation status by Mongolian law. Unfortunately this status is only as good as the caretaking that actually is done. The **Jean-Pierre and Sonja Siegfried foundation** supports specific measures to help the park management truly preserve this unique habitat.

Because of this support, the Gobi B has developed into one of the most well maintained protected areas in Mongolia.

Currently there are plans to enlarge this area substantially. As a symbol of the protected habitat, the takhi influence these plans in two ways: they stand to gain on their own, but they also help to protect many other endangered species in this area.

However, the Gobi B is not just a natural reserve, but also a cultural one, in which nomads have a right to settle as well. Here people and conservationists help each other with the common goal of conserving the habitat from negative influences.



Jean-Pierre Siegfried made sure that even after his death his engagement and support for equids, the takhi especially, would continue, not only with the ITG, but also through the Jean-Pierre and Sonja Siegfried foundation, founded by him and his wife.

The purpose of the foundation is to support the resettlement of the takhi in the Gobi B by contributions for the maintenance and the monitoring. An additional great desire of the founder is support for research into the reasons for the unsuccessful domestication of the takhi.



Jean-Pierre and Sonja Siegfried foundation

In 1999, together with the Werner Stamm foundation, Jean-Pierre Siegfried founded the «International Takhi Group» (ITG) and was elected its first president. During his presidency, the ITG and the program to resettle the takhi started successfully and he initiated co-operation with other projects in Mongolia concerning the takhi. Jean-Pierre Siegfried was a

gifted fundraiser and established a good basis for the continuing success of the project for many years. He maintained a friendly relationship with all the people and organisations involved in the resettlement. Even in times of great rivalry during the resettlement of the takhi, he sent a clear signal to all in favour of objectivity and co-operation. In 2007 he resigned as president of ITG and was appointed honorary president. In that function he remained associated with ITG and continued to provide his great knowledge, his ideas, his network and his support for fundraising.

Sonja Siegfried also played a key role throughout. Fascinated by the takhi and their release into the wild, he supported the program with a lot of passion, affection and discretion and always gave her husband the support he needed.

The takhi not only need food, but your financial support.

A good base has been established, but without funds the project is not sustainable.

You can do good even beyond life. With a donation, a legacy or an inheritance in favour of the Jean-Pierre and Sonja Siegfried foundation, **you can help to ensure the future of the takhi.**

The Jean-Pierre and Sonja Siegfried foundation is a renowned, non profit institution and is tax-exempt from inheritance and donation tax. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks for your contribution.

Basellandschaftliche
Kantonalbank
Account 40-44-0
IBAN CH93 0076 9401 6200 1



**JEAN-PIERRE UND SONJA
SIEGFRIED STIFTUNG**

info@siegfried-takhi.ch
www.siegfried-takhi.ch