



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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ENDANGERED WILD KHULAN IN MONGOLIA

VIDEO

WILD ASSES RUN ON THE
PLAINS

PETRA KACZENSKY ON CAMERA

ANTHONY WHITTEN ON
CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

These wild asses, members of the horse family, used to live in vast numbers on these vast plains. But their numbers are falling rapidly. They migrate over rough terrain, 30 to 40 kilometers to find food in areas that recently saw rain. And that is why fences and railroad tracks are threats to the animals, blocking their access to fresh food. Biologist Petra Kaczensky is studying them.

(25.5)

PETRA KACZENSKY: (English) **F**

"Some people say they would like to see more but they would also like to utilize them, so it becomes a resource for them." (7)

ANTHONY WHITTEN: (English) **M**

"Development could go ahead, the wild asses could be reduced in their range. Some may survive but the hunting will become easier and easier the more access is improved. And it is really up to them, it is not up to the World Bank to say thou shalt not do this or that." (14)

NARRATION

WILD ASS CARCASS

Another threat is poaching. Unchecked poaching, scientists say, could lead to the extermination of the wild ass within ten years. Mongolia has passed several laws to protect the animals and their environment. The laws are adequate, experts say, the enforcement is not. (16)

WILD ASS RUNS

MEAT MARKET

So the roles of the government, and the herders, who live among the animals are crucial. Anthony Whitten is with the World bank. (7)

ANTHONY WHITTEN ON
CAMERA

ANTHONY WHITTEN: (English) **M**

“The SUVs, the 4x4s can race across the Gobi desert at 70, 80 miles an hour. It’s very flat and very easy to drive on, and they can outpace the wild asses, very easy to catch up with them and shoot them. And because of that - I wouldn’t even call it sport hunting but hunting of wild ass by people who just want fun in the Gobi desert with their weapons - the populations are decreasing.” (25)

NARRATION

WILD ASS RUNS

Dennis Sheehy is an ecologist working in Mongolia. (2.5)

DENNIS SHEEHY ON CAMERA

DENNIS SHEEHY: (English) **M**

“Well what we really have here is a tenuous population of Khulan which is probably the last sustaining population of Khulan in the world. And we also have the tenuous population of herders.”

HERDER SITS

(17)

NARRATION

PIGEONS FLY VARIOUS SHOTS
OF THE CITY / TRAILER IN THE
GOBI DESERT

WILD ASS RUNS

HERDER ON HORSEBACK

UN LOGO

The biggest threat to the Asiatic wild ass, though, is that Mongolia itself is changing. The country is eager for development projects that will boost the standard of living here. And as new roads and railroads, wells, and other man-made structures dot the plains, the future of these animals - and the people who live among them - will be affected. (20)

This story was prepared by Alison Schafer for the United Nations.