



Antelope Specialist Group Groupe de Spécialistes des Antilopes

Mountain Gazelle (*Gazella gazella gazella*)

2015 IUCN Red List assessment: Endangered EN A2acd

Assessed by: IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group

Extract from the assessment submitted to IUCN:

“Several subspecies of Mountain Gazelle *Gazella gazella* have been named and these were previously assessed separately on the IUCN Red List, but following uncertainty over their validity and the boundaries between several of these forms, only the species was assessed in 2008. Genetic research by Wronski et al. (2010) subsequently showed that there were two reciprocally monophyletic lineages within *G. gazella*: a northern clade (that corresponds to the ‘subspecies’ *G. gazella gazella*) and a southern clade in the Arabian Peninsula and Arava Valley. Genetic differences between ‘northern’ gazelles from across Israel, and ‘southern’ populations from the Arabian Peninsula and Arava were confirmed by Hadas et al. (2015).

These two forms are therefore being assessed separately in 2015. Confirmation of the names of the two putative species is still awaiting a formal decision by the International Council on Zoological Nomenclature. Pending that decision, ‘northern’ Mountain Gazelles are referred to as *Gazella gazella gazella* / *Gazella gazella*. This taxon occurs in the Golan Heights, through Central Israel, the Jordan Rift Valley, and northern Negev. Former populations in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria are believed to be either extremely small or extinct. A small number (c. 200) was reported in the Hatay region of south-eastern Turkey by Kankilic et al. (2012).

Numbers of *G. g. gazella* were estimated at 10,000 by Clark and Frankenberg (2001) but had declined sharply to approximately 3,000 by 2008. Annual monitoring transects by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) counted a total of 1,210 gazelles in the three main populations in March 2015 (Dr Gila Kahila Bar Gal, *in litt.* August 2015). This figure does not include smaller, scattered groups of gazelles outside the main population nuclei, or the population in Turkey, but the overall total is considered to be certainly <3,000.

The overall population has therefore declined by at least 70% over the last 15 years (3 generations), due to poaching, road kills, habitat degradation and fragmentation – factors that are all ongoing”.

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