

made. All came up with the same results. Comparisons with DNA of other zebras showed that the quagga was definitely a plains zebra! It was the most southernly race and therefore was more brownish colored and less striped.

The plains zebras, then and now, are still incorrectly referred to as Burchell's zebras. The true Burchell's zebra is also extinct, as of 1910, having gone the way of the quagga. also at the hands of the Boers.

With the new discovery came the hope that the quagga can be brought back by selecting plains zebras with a brownish tint and less striping, and selectively breeding them. Thus, the Quagga Project was started by the South African Museum in 1987 with the capture of nine carefully chosen zebras from the Etosha Game Reserve. A stud book is being kept to keep track of the progress.

The Quagga Project will not merely produce a "look-alike" animal; it will be breeding animals with a true genetic relationship to the extinct quagga, as its gene pool is still grazing the South African plains.

There are now 40 zebras in the project at four different places near Cape Town. Due to the length of time it takes tar zebras to become old enough to mate, it will be a long process. There are a few second-generation zebras ('grandchildren') in the project at present.

Sadly, no effort was made to stop the destruction of the quagga. Only after it was gone did people take notice. Gone is gone. Forever is forever. This is a chance to reverse history.

The Quagga Project depends entirely upon donations for the purchase and transport of zebras, feed, veterinary care, and fencing. Please lend your support. Donations (in U.S. dollars) may be sent to:

The Quagga Project
R.E. Rau,, Project Secretary
South African Museum
P.O. Box 61, Cape Town 8000
South Africa

Top of page. One of the specially-selected zebra mares in the Quagga Project, 'Howey' has the desired brownish tint to her body and fewer stripes on her quarters and legs. (R.E. Rau photo)

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