



The Return of the Arabian Oryx: Tracking Kuwait's Hidden Herds

H. Alaskar¹, Z. Dashti², R. Alostath², M. Alkhalid²

¹ Department of Biological Science, Faculty of Sciences, Kuwait University

² Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Fisheries Division, Research Department

Correspondence: h.alaskar@ku.edu.kw



Introductions

- The Arabian Oryx, once native to Kuwait, disappeared from the wild in the 1970s due to overhunting and habitat loss
- A founding herd was established in 1962 through Operation Oryx at the Phoenix Zoo, in collaboration with international wildlife organizations
- This program aimed to maintain a captive population and support reintroduction across the region
- This poster reports recent records of the Arabian Oryx in Kuwait

Materials and Methods

- Data were collected through a citizen-science approach involving phone calls, farm visits, and direct communication with farm owners and visitors
- Participants reported the number of animals observed, sex, and age when possible
- Information was compiled and verified to update existing records of Arabian Oryx kept in governmental and private collections in Kuwait

Objectives

To report recent data on the Arabian Oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) in Kuwait and summarize findings from citizen-science observations and field reports

Results

- Reports confirmed the presence of Arabian Oryx in both governmental facilities and private collections (Figure 1)
- Updated data from Mar. 2007 – Sept. 2025 include the total number of individuals and their sex and age distribution (Figure 2)
- Observations indicate continued breeding activity within several private holdings (Figures 3,4)
 - The data highlight the role of private collections in maintaining the species in Kuwait

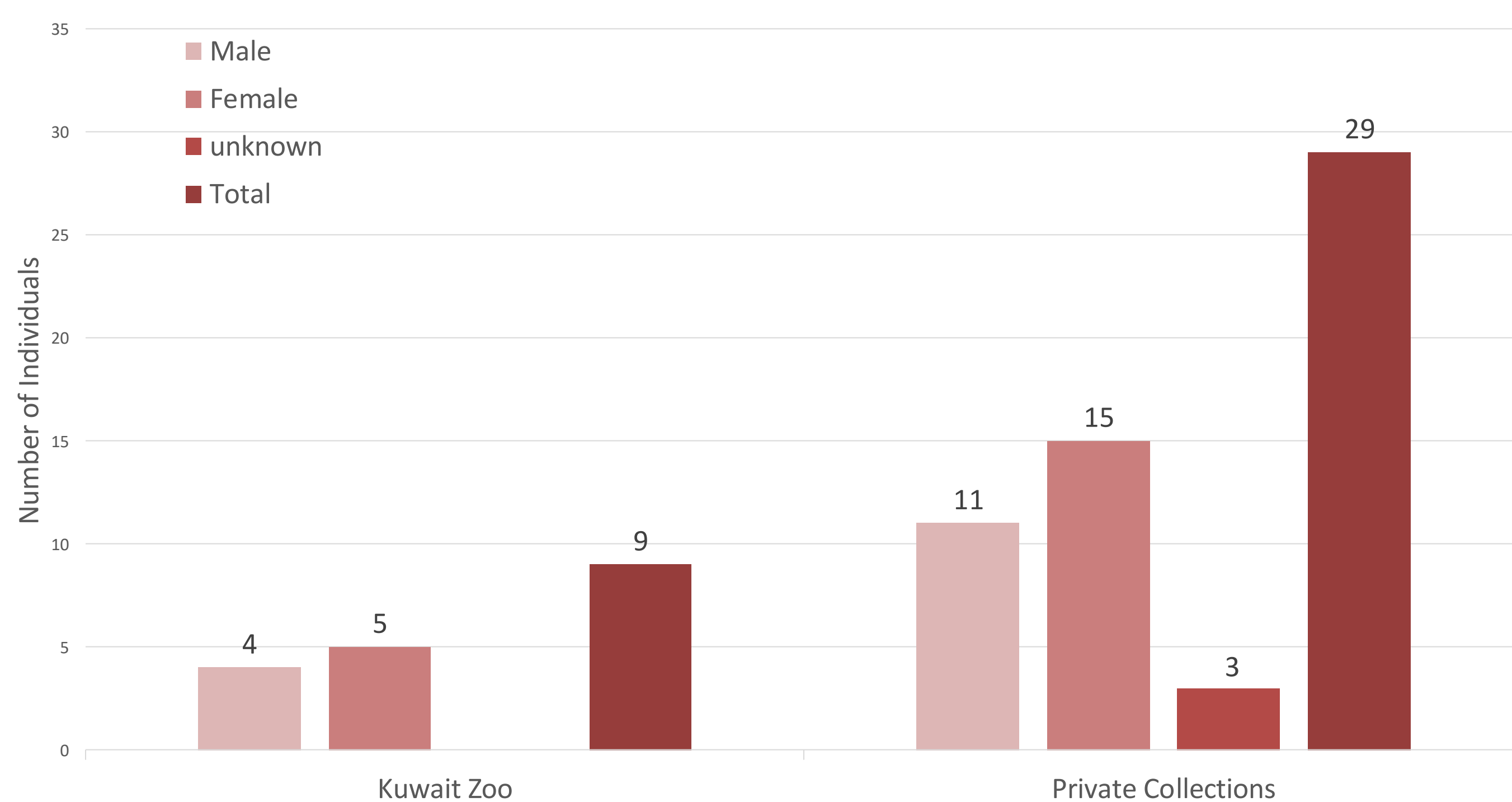


Figure 1: Total number of Arabian Oryx reported by Kuwait Zoo and private collectors.

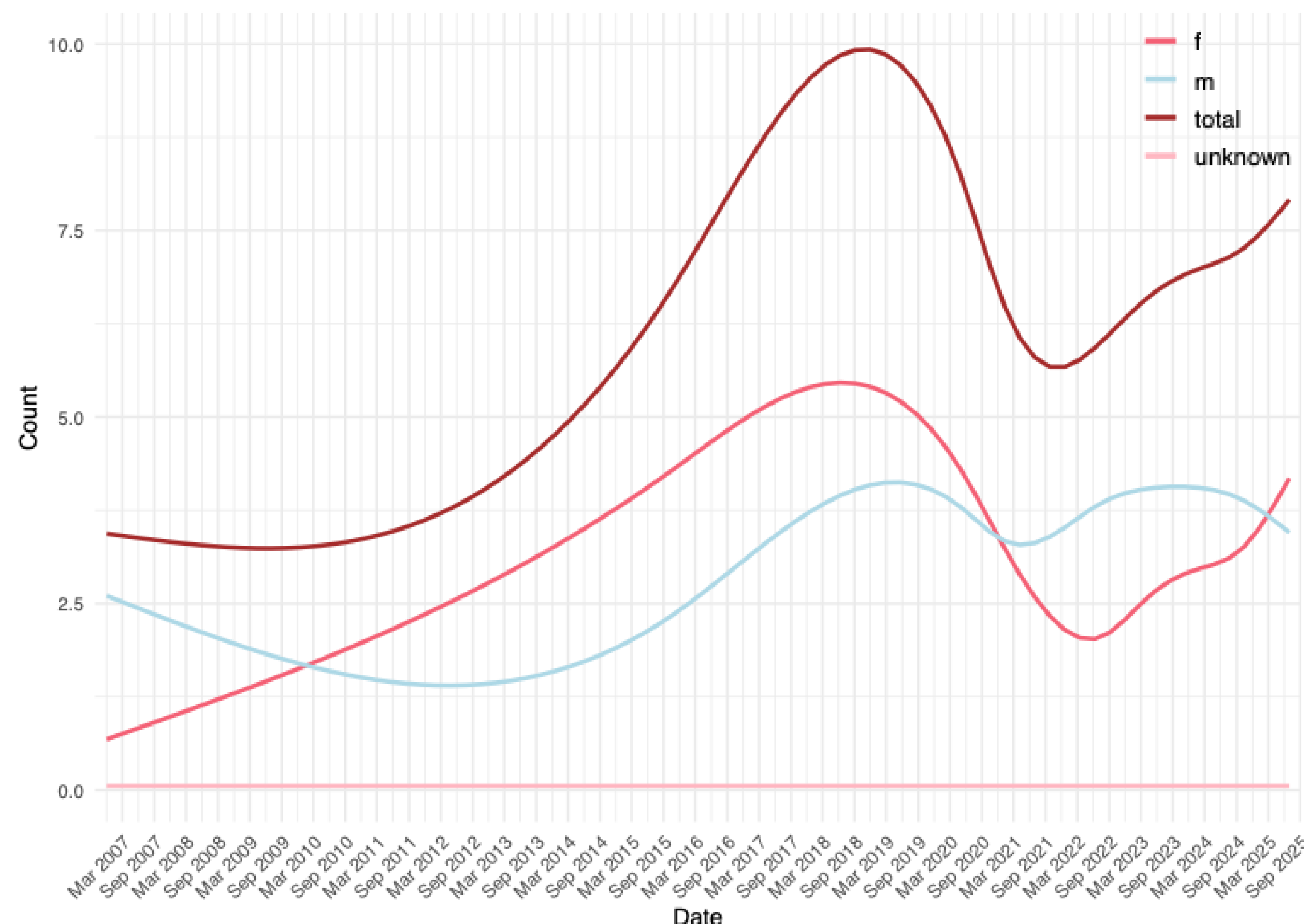


Figure 2: Report of the number of Arabian Oryx in Kuwait (Mar. 2007 – Sept. 2025)

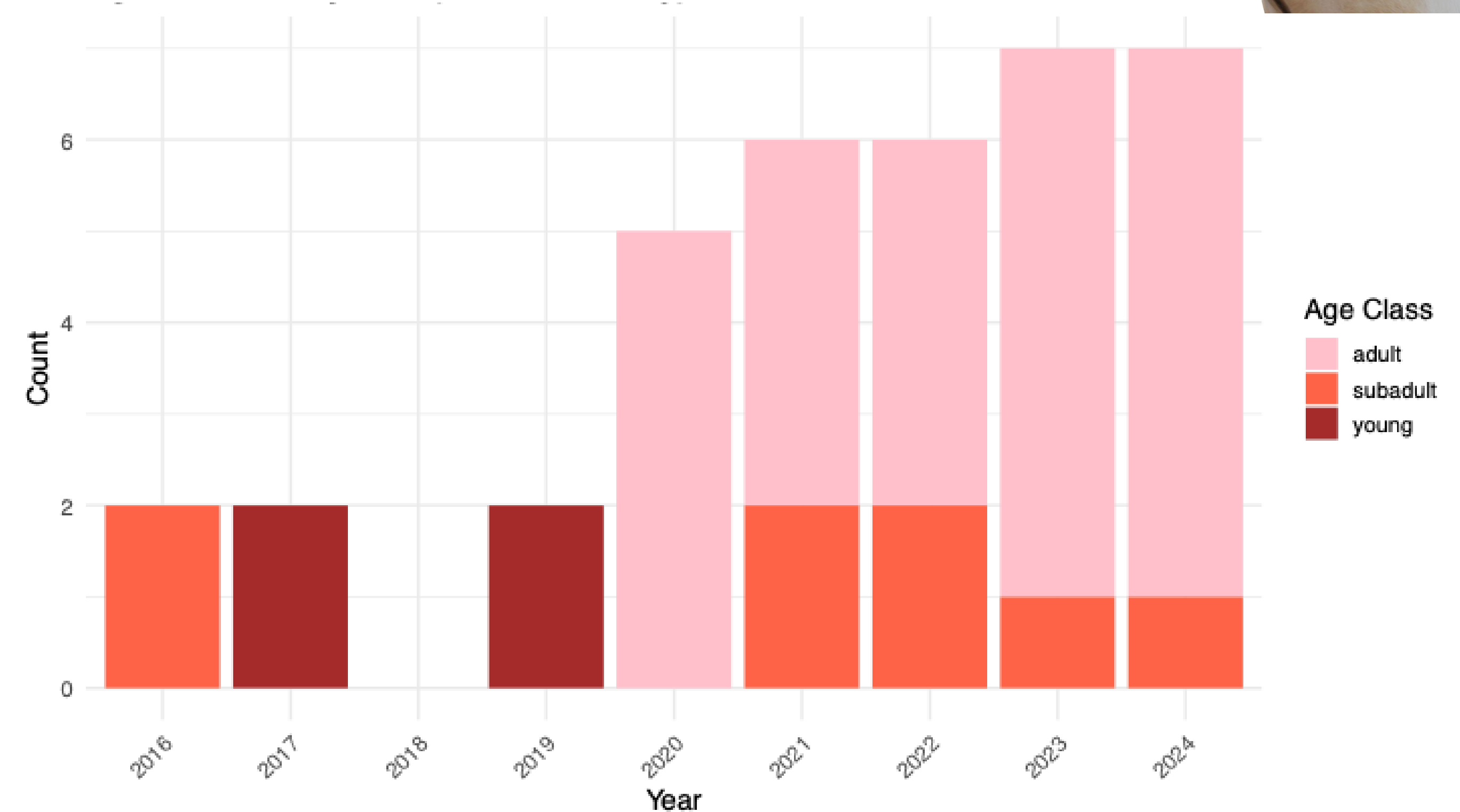


Figure 3: Age structure of the Arabian Oryx population

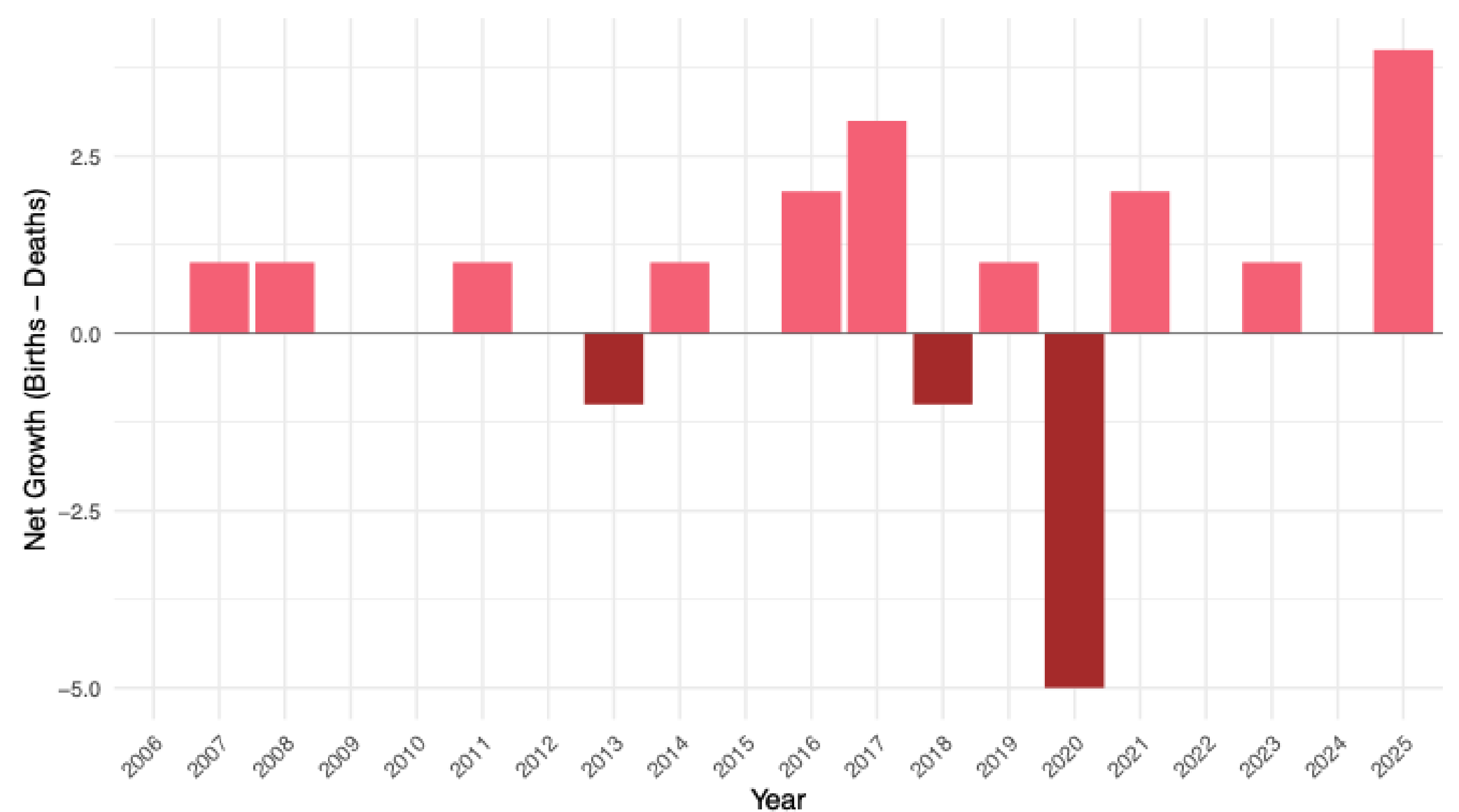


Figure 4: Net growth (births – deaths) of Arabian Oryx by year

Conclusion

- Arabian Oryx remain present in Kuwait through managed and private collections
- Public participation in data collection contributes valuable information for tracking population changes
- Ongoing documentation and reporting will support future conservation planning and potential reintroduction initiatives

Acknowledgment

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