



CBSG News

SPECIAL EDITION: Tribute to Ulie Seal

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*Newsletter of the
Conservation Breeding
Specialist Group,
Species Survival
Commission, The World
Conservation Union
(CBSG, SSC, IUCN)*



Ulysses S. Seal, Chairman of Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, succumbed to cancer on 19 March 2003. We have lost a great leader, innovator, scientist, conservationist, humanist, and close friend. Following Ulie's passing, the CBSG staff received numerous messages of condolence and support from around the world. After working with Ulie for almost two decades, I knew that he had an impact on a very large number of people. Even so, I was amazed at the number of messages we received from people I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, telling us about ways Ulie

inspired their commitment to conservation, gave them tools and encouragement to act on that commitment, and often changed their careers.

This issue of the CBSG Newsletter is a tribute to Ulie. I believe it is the kind of tribute that he would appreciate most – as it highlights programs and activities of the CBSG that were started by Ulie, and which are contributing significantly to the conservation of wildlife. We cannot claim that all CBSG initiatives are successful, nor would we state that any of the activities described in this Newsletter are yet perfected and finalized. But many of the approaches to conservation that have been tried by the CBSG have made major contributions to conservation, including progress toward resolving many problems that previously seemed intractable.

As pointed out in a letter to Ulie from AZA's President-elect Anne Baker, Ulie Seal was like Santa Claus – not so much because of his wonderful beard, hearty laugh, and frequent round-the-world travel, but because he gave so much to so many of us. While we mourn his passing, it is worth remembering that we have not lost what he gave to us. We still have his passion for wildlife conservation, his belief in people, his commitment to applying the best science and social processes to conservation problems, his innovation in developing new ways to solve important problems, and his willingness to take risks when the outcomes of our actions cannot be assured and when the only predictable result is the failure that would come from doing nothing. It is up us, working both within the CBSG network and also in many other ways, to continue to use and grow and give away to others all those presents that Ulie gave to us over the years.

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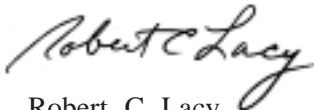
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Among those who have given much back to the CBSG and to conservation are the CBSG Strategic Associates. I recently asked five colleagues to join the CBSG Strategic Associates. Sanjay Molur of CBSG South Asia has become a leader in that region in the skilled application of CBSG processes to assess species threats, prioritize conservation needs, and plan effective conservation action. Jonathan Ballou, Population Biologist for the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park, has been a pioneer in the genetic and demographic management of captive populations, in the management of global conservation programs, and in training colleagues in Asia and elsewhere. Susie Ellis, Vice President for the Philippines and Indonesia Programs of Conservation International, previously served as a Senior Program Officer in the CBSG. Susie played a major role in developing the workshop processes for which the CBSG has rightly become so widely respected. Dominic Travis, an epidemiologist at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, has been one of our leaders in developing and teaching tools for disease risk assessments. Paul Paquet, a wildlife ecologist at the University of Calgary with expertise in carnivore biology and conservation, has been a catalyst in bringing together colleagues from diverse fields and with divergent perspectives to tackle the most difficult conservation issues – those that arise from interactions among multiple aspects of the human and natural world. More important than their past contributions, each of these colleagues is committed to continuing to work with CBSG.

Certainly there are others who also have made important contributions to the work of the CBSG, and I look forward to getting to know and work with the many dedicated and talented people in the CBSG network. As I learn more about who and where they are, and as I manage to coerce them into making even further commitments, I will tap them also to join the Strategic Associates, work with our Regional Networks, or otherwise find ways to engage them more actively in the work of the CBSG. I am eager to hear from anyone who can contribute to the kinds of processes described in this Newsletter, or who may have other creative ideas about how the CBSG network can work with others to achieve species conservation.

I am honored to have been asked to follow Ulie Seal in leading the CBSG, and I am proud to be part of the activities described on the following pages. I probably should be intimidated by the challenge of maintaining the high level of activity, innovation, scientific rigor, and conservation successes. However, in the past few months I have met with the CBSG staff in Minneapolis, our Regional Conveners from four other continents, the Strategic Associates, the Steering Committee, the Executive Committee of the Species Survival Commission, and representatives from many other conservation organizations. All of these groups offer to the CBSG incredible diversity of skills, level of expertise, willingness to experiment and innovate, and commitment to working together to achieve conservation success. I look forward to working with you all.

Sincerely,



Robert. C. Lacy
CBSG Chairman



CBSG's Statement of Vitality

“CBSG cares about saving endangered species and habitat. It bases its mission and activities on the development and implementation of scientifically sound processes. CBSG takes a leadership position in the conservation community based on cross-cultural, interdisciplinary and inter-sector partnerships. CBSG champions openness, inclusiveness, morality, ethics and risk-taking. It constantly evolves in response to the needs of all those concerned with conserving the planet's biodiversity. It depends on the warmth, support, acceptance and vitality of its extended community.”

CBSG News

CBSG News is published by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, World Conservation Union. *CBSG News* is intended to inform CBSG members and other individuals and organizations concerned with the conservation of plants and animals of the activities of CBSG in particular and the conservation community in general. We are interested in exchanging newsletters and receiving notices of your meetings. Contributions of US \$35 to help defray cost of publication would be most appreciated. Please send contributions or news items to:

CBSG News

Editor: Moriya McGovern
12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124-8151 USA
Phone: 01-952-997-9800
Fax: 01-952-432-2757
Email: office@cbsg.org
Internet: www.cbsg.org

Staff

Chairman: Robert C. Lacy, Ph.D.
Chairman 1979-2003: Ulysses S. Seal, Ph.D.
Program Officer: Onnie Byers, Ph.D.
Program Officer: Philip Miller, Ph.D.
Program Officer: Kathy Traylor-Holzer, Ph.D.
Administrative Officer: Shelly O'Brien
Program Assistant: Moriya McGovern

Strategic Associates:

Doug Armstrong, Jonathan Ballou,
Susie Ellis, Don Janssen,
Mike Maunder, Sanjay Molur,
Lee Simmons, Ron Tilson,
Dominic Travis, Harrie Vredenberg,
Sally Walker, Frances Westley,
David Wildt

Regional Network Convenors:

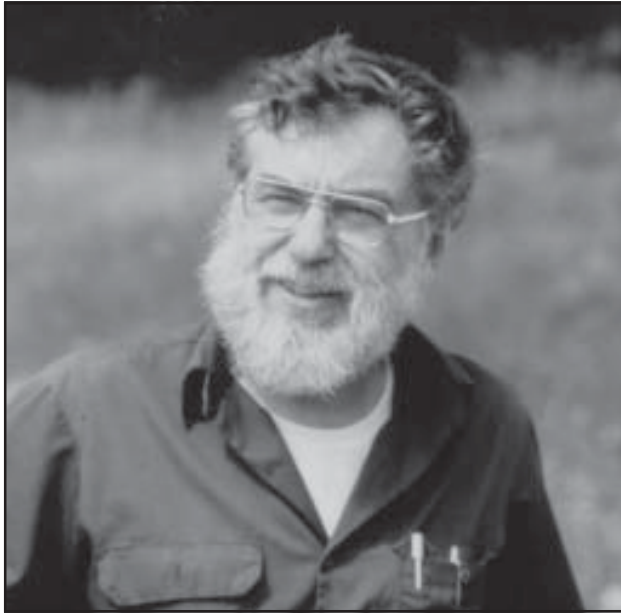
Sally Walker, *CBSG South Asia*
Yolanda Matamoros, *CBSG Mesoamerica*
Amy Camacho, *CBSG Mexico*
Jansen Manansang, *CBSG Indonesia*
Yolan Friedmann, *CBSG Southern Africa*
Bengt Holst, *CBSG Europe*

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***This special edition of CBSG News was sponsored
in part by Ken and Jean Kawata***



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the untimely passing on of Ulie Seal – surely one of the most committed conservationists of our time. Along with a great many other members of PAAZAB, we both were fortunate enough to have met Ulie and worked with him over the past decade. His contributions to both regional and international conservation has been immense. He will be greatly missed.

On behalf of PAAZAB and his many other colleagues in Africa, we would be exceedingly grateful if you would be so kind as to convey to his family our heartfelt condolences.

However, Ulie’s vision lives on in all of us who knew him. As you now pick up the reins of the CBSG, and assume this mantle of leadership, please be assured of PAAZAB’s continued support for this valued organization.

Best wishes,

DAVE MORGAN
Executive Director

ANDREW ERIKSEN
Chairman
PAAZAB



I read with great sadness the message about the untimely death of Ulie Seal; he will be sorely missed. Like many others I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Ulie over a period of more than a decade and he was a powerhouse of energy and a powerhouse for change.

As someone once said to me many years ago “how well be tilled his allotted span”. Ulie is correct in what he said; CBSG is the people and there are a number of excellent people within the organization. There are also a number of excellent people outside the actual administrative unit who will make sure that Ulie’s vision lives on and indeed prospers.

Ulie was indeed a powerful force for change and made a great contribution to conservation. I would be most grateful if you would convey the condolences of Ulie’s many friends in the Australasian region to his family. We will certainly miss his presence at the WAZA meetings and other meetings in the future.

I will wish you well as you step into these footmarks that Ulie has left. I am confident that, with the help of your able staff, you will certainly be able to take up the torch and carry on. Ulie’s memory demands nothing less and I believe that you are the man for the task. It goes without saying, but I will say it anyway, you have the support of this region and you only need ask for it.

Best wishes,

ED MCALISTER A.O.
President
ARAZPA



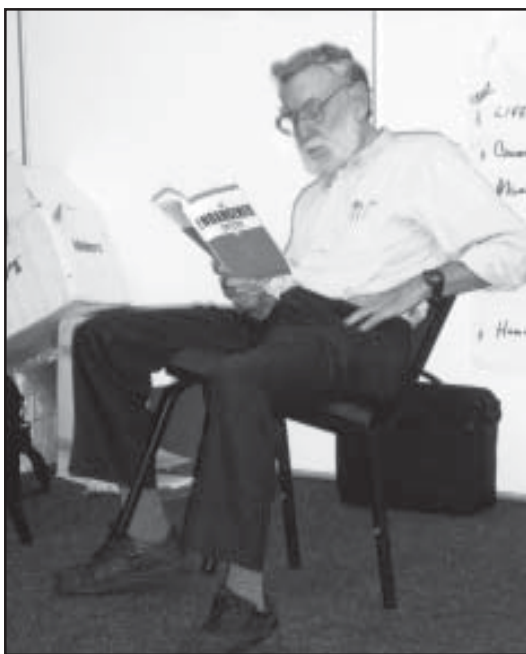


I would like to express my sincere condolences to him [Bob Lacy] on the death of Dr. Ulysses S. Seal. His footmarks are retained in the history of zoos in the world and in the field of wild animal conservation; CBSG is

great. We must advance on the basis of his footmarks without being daunted by his death. Representing JAZA, I believe that the best well-wishing word to him is designed for you to promise that we continue the support to CBSG as before. Finally, I do hope the further development of CBSG.

With Best Regards,

TAKAMASA IKEDA
Chairman
JAZA



Please accept my most sincere condolences on the death of Ulie. I will never forget the few days I was fortunate enough to work with him over the past years. I

will miss him very much. We will be publishing a memoriam in the upcoming EAZA News.

KOEN BROUWER
President
EAZA



It is very sad to hear Ulie Seal passed away. Even though we all had to expect it, if it's happening we have a hard time believing it. Please extend my deepest sympathy to his family.

Personally, Ulie for me was a very inspiring and motivating person. As a conservation leader he pushed on all edges to lead us to new results, counting on all people's talents, pushing on conservation results without precluding them.

He dedicated his life to conservation. For WAZA he provided the link into other partner organizations of the conservation community and opened many doors to governments in the whole world to promote conservation issues.

We all will miss him, but I know we can best serve him if we proceed to develop our zoos into conservation centers to achieve our ultimate goal, to do everything to conserve the biodiversity of our planet we live upon.

In this regard, I know everybody at CBSG is ready to fulfill his legacy. I wish you all the power and motivation to follow his road.

My thoughts are with you,

ALEX RUBEL
President
WAZA





With feelings of great loss for one of our most honored members, IUCN brings the sad news of Ulysses S.

Seal's passing due to cancer. Ulie served as the distinguished Chair of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) since 1979. "We have lost a tremendous leader, an intellectual dynamo, and a source of innovation for the SSC and the IUCN. Ulie will be sadly missed by all of us," said David Brackett, Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Ulie strengthened the variety of specialized fields within the scope of the IUCN's work, including human health, animal health, and wildlife conservation. The CBSG, with more than 1,000 members, continues Ulie's work with great respect for his impact on many people and organizations across the globe.



It was with profound sadness, but also relief, that I read your message. We have been expecting this day for some time now, but it is still sad.

Please convey my sympathies to the family, and please convey to them the tremendous respect Ulie commanded in the Species Survival Commission. We have lost a tremendous leader, an intellectual dynamo, and a source of innovation for the SSC and the IUCN.

DAVID BRACKETT
Chair
IUCN Species Survival Commission



I am writing on behalf of the SSC Plants Conservation Committee to offer our heartfelt condolences to you, your colleagues and friends, at this time of passing of Ulie Seal. Although we knew that Ulie's passing was imminent, it has not lessened the shock. Ulie was a great leader, a visionary and a trailblazer. We all know that and for this we can give thanks for what he achieved. Moreover he had supportive family and friends behind him who encouraged and nurtured him in his passion for conservation. This provided a formidable combination that could only achieve and inspire.

But Ulie was far more than that. For me personally, and I am sure this is shared by others, I soon realized that he could be a very hard debater who did not suffer fools and demanded that you back up your arguments with facts. Yet at the end of a fast and intense discussion the eyes gleamed, the smile broke out and the conversation turned to personal matters. I remember some years back on one of his early visits to Christchurch I invited Ulie and his wife to our home for the evening. After we dropped them back to their motel my wife turned to me and commented that this bearded prophet was surely one of the most remarkable people we had had in our home – and I thought, "he has not only come out of the wilderness to exhort, but is bringing us challenges ABOUT the wilderness". Ulie was also a key figure in the development of SSC's strategic plan especially at the Gerba workshop in Tunisia where he took discussion, in Ulie fashion, by the scruff of its neck and turned it to a practical series of outcomes.

There will not be another Ulie. We should not expect one - it would be wrong to do so. But he has left others - you, Mike Maunder, and a global team to carry on and build on his foundations. Ulie was a man for his time. Now we must go on and carry the torch that he lit.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID GIVEN
Chair
SSC Plant Conservation Committee



We are very sad to hear the news about Ulie. This is indeed a great loss for us and conservation in general.

We here at the Reintroduction Specialist Group (RSG) Secretariat mourn Ulie's loss and have also informed our members through our email server.

The RSG looks forward to continually working and cooperating with CBSG. Let us know if the RSG can assist in any way.

Best Wishes,
Your Sincerely,

FREDERIC LAUNAY
Chairman
IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group



Though it was thought to be imminent, yet the news of passing away of Ulie Seal was a shock to all of us. His legacy and his contributions to the cause of wildlife conservation in the world cannot be duplicated by any one. During his time as the Chairman of the CBSG, he inspired many, including me to strive for the cause of conservation of wildlife.

We share your grief and resolve to work together to realize the vision of Dr. Seal.

Yours Sincerely,

P.R. SINHA
Central Zoo Authority
India





The intended Keynote speaker for the third Marwell Preservation Trust/Southampton University Conservation Seminar was to have been Dr. Ulysses Seal, the chairman of the

Conservation Breeding Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission. His visit was to have been followed by a half yearly meeting, hosted by Marwell, of the CBSG steering committee of which I have been a member since 1979 when the late Sir Peter Scott appointed Ulie (as he was universally known) to the chairmanship of what was then named the *Captive Breeding Specialist Group*. Sadly, just a short time before these two events I received word that Ulie had been diagnosed with cancer in two parts of his body and advised not to travel. This evil disease took Ulie from us on 19 March 2003.

In early life, like so many of us, Ulie was fascinated by wildlife, and tales of his early animal adventures are legion. His Ph.D. was earned in Biochemistry, with a post doctorate in endocrinology. At the VA Hospital in Minneapolis he spent the majority of his career researching prostate cancer, and it was in Minneapolis' then new zoo that Ulie developed a passion for many scientific aspects of wildlife research, and from this grew the driving force of his later life, which was the application of science to conservation. Our present day, often computer based, species management programs grew from this man's dedication and science-based skills.

Most of all, I will remember the charismatic energy which flowed from this unique individual, and which often persuaded myself and others to undertake tasks which we would rather not tackle. Ulie was always fun to be with. He had people as well as animal skills, and a degree of tolerance which often left me open mouthed. This came to the fore during travels, and meetings with "non believers". One of my many personal memories is of a meeting in Niger, where a number of us led by Ulie, were trying to persuade a group of Government VIPs in Arab dress that the return to their country of the scimitar horned oryx was a good idea. None of Ulie's audience was warm to the idea, but one more aggressive than most demanded to

know the potential milk yield of the animals of which we were the advocates. I forget Ulie's answer but it would have been good humored.

His work for wildlife and the influence on so many of us with lesser intellects will be his enduring legacy, to all who like myself have lost an irreplaceable Friend and Mentor.

J.M. KNOWLES
Director Emeritus
Marwell Zoo, UK





Ulysses S. Seal was and will remain a giant figure in the conservation movement. His role was multi-faceted, spanning the fields of animal health, zoo biology, small population biology and the practical application of conservation theory. But I

feel that his most important endeavour was to develop the tools and nurture the process for better communication among conservationists and all the other “stakeholders” involved in any endangered species issue.

Ulie carried out this pioneering role for more than 20 years as chairman of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, one of the most powerful and influential of the approximately 120 such groups in the IUCN network. I am proud to say that I first met him right here in Jersey, when the Trust hosted an early meeting of the CBSG and the first at which Ulie took the chair. He mesmerized everyone with his deep, drawly voice, huge grey beard and imposing stature –

a prophet-like figure if ever there was one. Even Gerry was impressed!

That meeting began a long association between Ulie and the Trust. We worked together on a number of species projects and on conservation in Madagascar, and he utilized ITC’s resources to train facilitators for CBSG-style workshops. The last time we saw him was again in Jersey, when he personally facilitated one of our workshops just about a year ago.

The news of Ulie’s passing has saddened conservationists around the world, all of us who owe him so much. We know there will never be another like you, Ulie, but you will live on in the way we now try to practice conservation – with minds open to all the diverse facts needed to develop and guide our actions, which are based on ideals and not personal agendas – an amazing legacy indeed.

LEE DURRELL
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey, UK





Dear Bob,
From all of us at the Minnesota Zoo, our deepest condolences to you and the CBSG staff. Ulie was an inspiration and catalyst for many things, and the Zoo

would not exist were it not for his guidance and vision. We are proud that the Zoo has been able to host and provide support to the ultimate expression of Ulie's conservation vision – the vital organization you now lead. As we have conveyed to you and the entire CBSG community, the Minnesota Zoo is honored to continue to provide a home base for CBSG together with significant ongoing financial and professional assistance. We have all benefited from our association with Ulie, and we are steadfast in our resolve to do what we can to help you with the important task of moving forward.

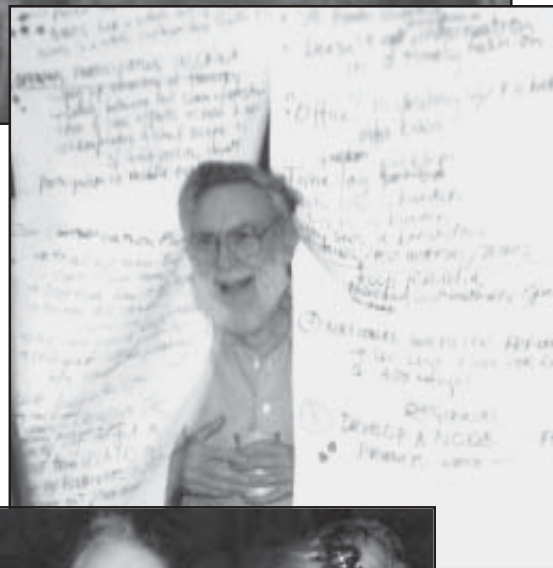
To honor Ulie's legacy and to underscore our support for the continued success of CBSG, the Zoo would like to offer the following expressions of our respect:

- The Zoo's small grants program for support of conservation activities – now known as the Conservation Action Team (CAT) – will be renamed to reflect Ulie's influence. This program will provide ongoing recognition of Ulie's involvement in the establishment of our Zoo and his seminal role in integrating the zoo community and *in situ* conservation efforts.
- An immediate disbursement of funds from this small grants program will be made to CBSG. A grant of \$5,000 will be provided as a tribute to Ulie's efforts and to acknowledge our confidence in the future of CBSG under your leadership. This grant will augment the Minnesota Zoo's annual support for CBSG general operations.
- We will develop and install a permanent interpretive graphic detailing Ulie's involvement in the history of the Minnesota Zoo and the dispersion of his vision and methodologies via CBSG. We plan to install this signage at our new Tiger Lair exhibit, where Ulie's special interest in tigers can be dynamically and appropriately presented.

We hope these small gestures will begin to convey our respect and admiration for Ulie's accomplishments, as well as our gratitude for his graciousness and concern.

Our thoughts are with you, the staff and Ulie's family, friends and colleagues. Please let us know if can assist you in any way as you begin the next chapter in the history of CBSG.

Best Regards,
LEE EHMKE
Director / CEO
Minnesota Zoo, USA



I met Ulie but twice in my life.

At the start of the 90's I was a junior zookeeper at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, Australia charged with the care of several Sumatran Tigers. At the time they were housed in what amounted to concrete boxes with a small iron barred and cyclone wire viewing window. I was 19 and struggling to find meaning in what I thought was to be my dream career in conservation at the zoo. When the animals haphazardly reproduced, we phoned around other zoos asking if they wanted any of the progeny, for we had no more space. It was at the very end of that era of zoo evolution.

Ulie and his wife visited Australia (for the first time I think) and gave some lectures at the zoo, not widely advertised outside the senior ranking curators and zoo officials. I snuck in and attended this talk up the back of the room behind the powers of the zoo. Afterwards I managed to muster the courage to grab Ulie amongst the diplomatic frenzy that was ensuing, and he afforded me some of his time on a one to one basis. The officials were shepherding him and his wife off to his hotel but he took the time to speak to me. These 10 minutes I spent with him affected me more than any other 10 minutes I can think of in my entire life. He left me feeling wide open and so energized that I too could contribute; I now had some glimmer of hope how. I spent the next day contemplating while hosing down the tigers' concrete. On my way home the next day, I noticed Ulie walking along the street near his hotel. I pulled up on my motorbike – I think he was initially quite shocked by this approach out of nowhere. I wanted to ask him if he could repeat his talk to the keeper staff in their lunch hour – he graciously agreed with a huge smile.

I was only to meet Ulie once again after that, several years later for a fleeting encounter, during which I could hardly believe he remembered our first meeting. For me Ulie was one of the most pivotal people in my life despite barely knowing him. His 10 minutes of time have stayed with me every step of the way,

giving me the knowledge and tools so that I can make a contribution. Twelve years on in part I'm sure because of this, I have educated myself at University studying zoology, completed a masters degree and am now in the stages of formulation of a Ph.D. on Speciation Processes and Conservation of the Melanesian Archipelago Pteropus Flying Foxes and Pteralopex Monkey-faced Bats – which will hopefully culminate in a PHVA. On completion this scientific work will be dedicated to Ulie. Even Ulie could not know how his often by chance investments in grass roots individuals has spread so extensively enabling others on every level.



Over the period since our first meeting I moved from the zoo to conservation in Papua New Guinea in a variety of roles. I write this small note of appreciation from a small island in the Pacific called Bougainville after last night cranking up the generator and managing to maintain an Internet connection long enough to sadly learn of his passing. The news has touched me more deeply than one would imagine for someone that barely knew him and had so little direct contact with him. Ulie's influences are truly global;

his passing does not go unnoticed even in some of the more remote and unlikely localities of the planet. It is testimony to this man's remarkable skill and ability to share with us what so naturally came to him. Ulie is instrumental in continuing to catalyze my process of conservation evolution and in sustaining my drive to contribute to conservation through the more difficult times – for this I will never forget and his willingness to spend time when others were less inclined.

While those closer to him, professionally and personally, have far greater justification to remember him, I could not move forward with my work without noting my appreciation of him and his contributions – on a personal level.

Thank you Ulie.

STEVE HAMILTON
Arawa, Bougainville
Papua New Guinea

CBSG South Asia: The first CBSG Regional Network



CBSG India was the experimental trial of grass-roots networking of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, initiated in 1991 by Zoo Outreach Organisation (Z.O.O.). From 1991 – 1996, we conducted six Population and Habitat

Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshops. In 1995 we began conducting CAMP workshops with a series of 3 workshops for Southern Indian medicinal plants. In 1997 we were invited to conduct 7 CAMPs for as many different taxon groups for the Biodiversity Conservation Prioritisation Project, BCPP, a mega-project endorsed by Government of India and sponsored by a consortium of international agencies. We continued to conduct CAMP workshops, including one for reptiles and amphibians in Sri Lanka. At this point we had requests from field biologists in other countries in our region, South Asia, to join CBSG, India. With permission from Ulie Seal, CBSG Chairman at the time, we then encouraged them to create a CBSG network in their own country.

Zoo Outreach Organisation was interested in promoting more activity and profile for field biologists studying invertebrates and small vertebrates, such as amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals. Z.O.O. created active networks for these taxon groups and ultimately we had requests from field biologists in South Asia to join those also! This time we

just expanded the mandate of the network to South Asia and formed a suite of “cinsa’s” ... an acronym for “Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (pronounced “sin-sah”). So we have ICINSA (ik-in-sah) for Invertebrates, CCINSA (ssin-sah) for Chiroptera, and RILSCINSA (real-skin-sah) for small mammals (rodents, insectivores, lagomorphs, scandents). So far, our Deputy Director and Red List savant, Sanjay Molur, runs DAPTF, South Asia for amphibians and South Asian Reptile Network SARN.

Three of us run these five taxon networks: Dr. B.A. Daniel administers ICINSA; Sally Walker, chiroptera and small mammal; and Sanjay, amphibian and reptile. All of the networks are successful and keep growing in membership. The gum that holds the networks together is the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, its philosophy, policies, processes and patience. All of the taxon networks can be maintained as active entities because the structure and plan of each is based on a conservation action strategy that evolved from conducting PHVA, and in particular, CAMP workshops.



Sanjay Molur conducting IUCN Red List training

In some tropical countries priorities have been other than wildlife conservation, field studies, modern field techniques, etc. and are not well developed, particularly in small colleges and even universities. Also, for species which have not been given a high priority by government (such as non-charismatic mini-vertebrates and invertebrates) there is no professional “community” as such, perhaps just a handful of field biologists working in

IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group, South and East Asia Chair selected

Sanjay Molur, Deputy Director, Zoo Outreach Organisation, has been appointed as Chair of the Reintroduction Specialist Group (RSG), South and East Asia, as part of the RSG restructuring decided recently. Sanjay has been deeply involved with both *in situ* and *ex situ* wildlife issues since 1993 when he joined ZOO and CBSG, India. Initial plans for the regional group are to identify reintroduction activities in the region; establish a network; and promote the goals and objectives of RSG through workshops and training. Currently, he is involved in compiling a database of all “release” programs that have taken place in the region to ascertain the scientific basis of such efforts and also their impact. These will form a collection of “case studies”. He is soliciting and compiling information for a web-based newsletter, which will be published bi-annually, and complement the RSG Newsletter.

isolation in far flung areas of the country. Often the academic institutions are underfunded and do not have a budget for scientific journals, recent scientific books and other trappings of wildlife science. For such countries, formulating “taxon networks” provides solutions to many problems. The network brings field biologists and academics together from which a professional community can germinate. Having specialists of one taxon group all together facilitates the organization of effective field techniques training and also in the distribution of “tasks” such as what needs to be done to put together preliminary information for conducting a CAMP Workshop (making checklists, surveying data deficient species, literature search, filling biological information sheets, etc.). Moreover, after the CAMP, the network and its newsletter provide a way of following up certain recommendations of the workshop. This takes the form of a series of actions, which we have named the CBSG South Asia Conservation Action Formula: (1) Networking, (2) Training, (3) Field Studies, (4) CAMP, and (5) Education /Awareness/Lobbying.



Sally Walker

Once the network has been established and one CAMP workshop has been conducted, conservation action can be carried out much more incisively and effectively. The Chiroptera network, CCINSA, will serve as a case study.

In 1997 when CBSG India conducted a series of CAMP workshops for a biodiversity project, it was noted in the Mammal CAMP that two very large taxon groups – chiroptera and small non-volant mammals such as rodents – were very much under-represented by biologists, despite the fact that these two groups of mammals made up more than 50% of Indian mammal diversity.

Responding to a recommendation of the chiroptera working group at the Mammal CAMP, ZOO/CBSG initiated the Chiroptera network. The Chester Zoological Garden, who had just opened a marvelous bat exhibit, sponsored the network. It was not easy locating bat workers in India and later, South Asia, but today there are over 90 biologists from 5 South Asian countries who belong to this network.

A basic field techniques training was offered for the network, as much to solidify the group as to impart information, and an important bat biologist, Paul Bates, was invited to conduct the training. A newsletter was founded and began publishing members’ bat notes as well as other helpful material. A directory of members was brought out with members’ CV’s, conservation publications, current projects, the Ph.D. students they were guiding and their photograph. A Chiroptera community had been born and was growing fast.

So CBSG, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka evolved into CBSG South Asia as a logical step following the taxon networks. The combination of the regional CBSG network and the regional taxon networks is very effective in tackling neglected taxon groups as well as neglected academics and field biologists. Our CBSG network includes not only CBSG South Asia members but also 1000 + field biologists, taxonomists and other taxon specialists. 🐼

*Submitted by Sally Walker
Convenor, CBSG, South Asia*

ZOO/WILD team



CBSG Mesoamerica: Protecting Mesoamerica's Biodiversity



CBSG Mesoamerica was the second CBSG Regional Network to be established. It is based at Fundación Pro Zoológicos in San Jose, Costa Rica. The region of Mesoamerica includes southern México, Belize,

Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic.

History

The idea of CBSG Mesoamerica started in 1993 during the second Congress of the Mesoamerican and Caribbean Zoo and Aquarium Association held in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Dr. Ulysses S. Seal (Ulie), Chairman of CBSG at the time, attended this meeting. He then ran the first CAMP in the region after that Congress.

The next year, Ulie was invited to two workshops in Costa Rica: an Endemic Species CAMP and a *Saimiri oersterdii* PHVA. Since then, 27 workshops have been run in the Region, all of them with different conservation themes. Everything from orchids to medicinal plants to jaguars to manatees have been evaluated by CBSG CAMP and PHVA workshop processes in Mesoamerican region.

Not only have the discussion and analysis of conservation issues been important in the region, also the information about specific subjects such as small population management, scientific reintroductions, fragmentation, IUCN guidelines, confiscations, and more was heard for the first time from Ulie and other CBSG staff who facilitated the workshops.



FUNDAZOO



Yolanda Matamoros

Funding

CBSG Mesoamerica is managed as a FUNDAZOO project. Fundazoo is a non-profit organization that administrates the governmental zoos in Costa Rica.


The workshops that have been done in the past were supported by national institutions of the country in which the workshop was held and with international support, especially for travel expenses for instructors and participants.

Funding regional workshops is easier than funding country workshops, since many of the countries are small and ecosystems extend past country borders.

Partnerships

There is a strong partnership with the Mesoamerican and Caribbean Zoo and Aquarium Association, and with the zoos and NGOs in every country in which we have worked.

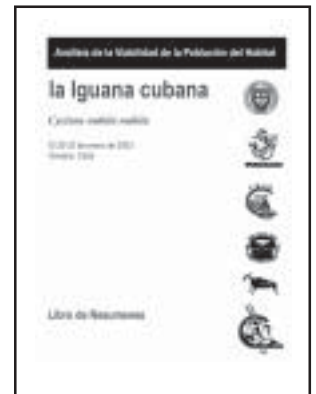
Future

CBSG Mesoamerica will continue to support conservation initiatives in the region. Several national and regional workshops are being planned for 2004. 

*Submitted by Yolanda Matamoros, Convenor
CBSG Mesoamerica*



Yolanda facilitating the Cuban Iguana PHVA in Havana, Cuba, January 2003



2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCES COSTA RICA, CENTRAL AMERICA

For the preliminary program, Costa Rica tourism information, and registration, please visit the CBSG website: www.cbsg.org



CBSG
Conservation Breeding
Specialist Group
Annual Meeting
14-16 November 2003



WAZA
World Association of
Zoos and Aquariums
58th Annual Meeting
17-20 November 2003

We hope to see you there!

CBSG Indonesia: An Expanding and Evolving Network



If the devil makes work for idle hands, he won't get much business among CBSG members in Indonesia because everyone has been very busy with planning and workshops.

One of CBSG's current activities in Indonesia is to help and assist in providing responsible rescues when wildlife comes into conflict with humans. Because of this we were recently called on to catch a Sumatran tiger that had begun killing people near Dumai in the Riau province of Sumatra.

Our help was requested after local people killed a juvenile tiger that they believed might be the killer. Unfortunately they had the wrong tiger and soon after another human was taken.

A vet and professional catcher were dispatched to the area and rescued the tiger before the local villagers could kill it. However, it was still necessary to enter into negotiations and pay compensation to the locals who wanted the animal dead before we were able to take it to the PHPA & PKBSI Sumatran Tiger Captive Breeding Center at Taman Safari Indonesia (TSI). Local authorities later caught two more young tigers in the area and sent them to the breeding center.

Tiger rescues in Indonesia date back to 1992 when so little was known about the animal in the wild that the CBSG decided to hold the first regional captive breeding workshop for tigers at TSI (1992).

At the same time, the first Population and Habitat Viability Analysis (PHVA) was held at Padang. This workshop resulted in the development of the Indonesian Sumatran Tiger Action Plan, which outlines both short and long-term conservation goals.

To implement the conservation program, government agencies in cooperation with CBSG, PKBSI, and TSI developed the Indonesian Sumatran Tiger Conservation Strategy (1994).

Since then many man-eating tigers have been rescued and relocated to TSI. These captured animals are put into the PKBSI captive management population, which gains valuable genetic contributions for the program and the conservation of the species in general.

An Indonesian Sumatran tiger rescue workshop in September 2001, sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife and attended by CBSG former chairman, Dr. Ulie Seal, discussed trapping protocols, institutional coordination and implementation of the team and provided a manual book for the field staff. CBSG Indonesia staff were there and as one might expect

they have fully participated in this and every other conservation meeting or workshop in the country.

This year, CBSG and PKBSI met with the Directorate Biodiversity Conservation (PHKA) in February for an evaluation of the Sumatran tiger breeding program and decided to review the Sumatran Tiger Conservation Program and search for funding.

Supported by the London Zoological Society and Fauna Flora International (FFI), CBSG

and PKBSI conducted a Rescue Training Workshop in Jambi to instruct forest workers and local vets in handling problem animals. Experienced people from TSI gave many of the lectures and demonstrations.





In January, the executive board of the South East Asian Zoo Association (SEAZA) met in Bangkok. Mr. Pisit Na Patalung, as the new President, passed a motion to create the “Ulie Seal Award” to honor the

man for his years of wholehearted support of conservation in the region.

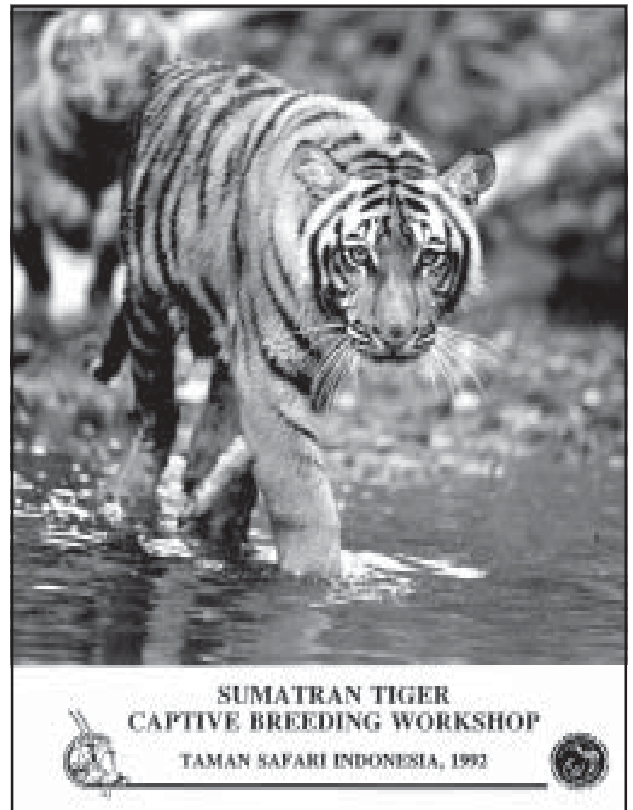
CBSG was also invited to a three-day workshop to develop a model for the management of the Halimun National Park. This workshop was held in February of this year.

In the near future, it is intended to appoint a program manager to assist regional planning, and all our activities will continue at full speed because more and more human/animal conflicts are occurring here.

In March 2003, CBSG Indonesia conducted a one-day meeting to ensure that there was significant representation and cooperation with other conservation organizations in Indonesia. The idea was that we wanted an overview of CBSG Indonesia activities. We therefore asked key organizations such as PHKA, LIPI, PKBSI/World Wildlife Fund/ FFI/ Wildlife Conservation Society, Conservation International, FOKSI, APAPI, etc, what their needs were, and for their ideas and their hopes for future CBSG Indonesia activities. CBSG representative Sally Walker from India also outlined various CBSG activities and programs to those attending the Indonesian meeting.

CBSG Indonesia will conduct the PHVA meeting for Javan leopard in the near future. 🐾

*Submitted by Drs. Jansen Manansang
Convener, CBSG Indonesia*



Obituary: Hadi Manansang

We sadly convey news of the peaceful death of Hadi Manansang on 2 March 2003. He lived to be 87 years old, and is the loved and respected father of the Taman Safari Indonesia directors Jansen Manansang, Frans Manansang and Tony Sumampau.

CBSG México: Action Planning for Conservation



I met Ulie Seal many years ago and like everyone else who knew him I was amazed and inspired by his creative energy and incredible passion. It wasn't until the IUDZG (now WAZA) meeting in Brazil that we started talking about the possibility of creating a Mexican group, satellites we called them at the time. Ulie recognized that México is a nation with enormous conservation challenges and a government with priorities that conflict with the environmental needs of one of the world's most biodiverse countries. We felt there was a need to create a network that would provide a neutral platform for Mexican researchers, conservationists, Non-Government Organizations and authorities to debate, share information and come up with ways to collaborate in the conservation efforts for the Mexican species we feel so strongly about.

CBSG had done some work in México before, but our first workshops as "official" CBSG México were Cat

and Primate CAMPS and a Howler Monkey PHVA in 1995. Dr. Phil Miller and Dr. Susie Ellis facilitated those meetings and it was then that a strong bond and working relationship began between the CBSG staff and the Mexican team. Since then, we have held several workshops and training courses. Until now, the activity of CBSG in the country has been with isolated species. In searching for ways to have a broader impact, we have decided to work on all of the priority species in the country. Our plan is to promote a national debate of the highest level that will result in having an action plan for all the species that are considered of conservation priority. It is an ambitious project, but with the support of everyone in CBSG and the enthusiasm of the Mexican group it is an achievable dream.

CBSG México is currently collaborating with AZCARM, the Mexican Zoo and Aquarium Association, in helping the Mexican zoos, breeding centers and aquariums to recognize and fulfill their potential as conservation institutions.

Since its creation, our group has been based at and mostly funded by Africam Safari, a safari park located in Puebla, 190 km southeast of México City. Although Africam was conceived at its beginnings to be a safari

The CBSG Mexico Team:

starting at left:

**Sandra Badillo,
Luis Carrillo,
Amy Camacho,
Alberto Paras,
Blbian Pinto, and
Juan Cornejo.**

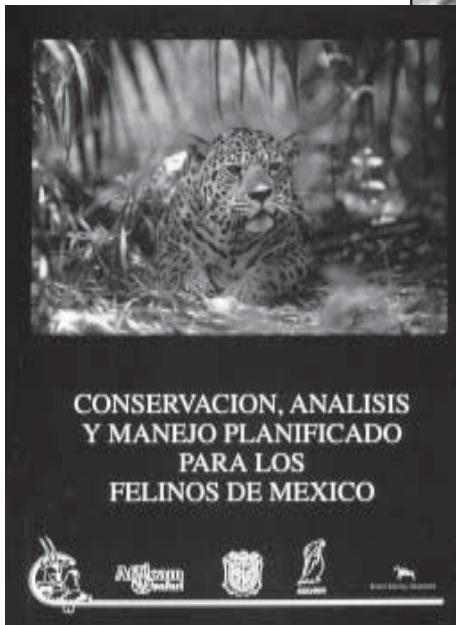


park dedicated mostly to exhibit African animals, in the past 10 years we have been focusing our education, research and conservation efforts on Mexican and Central American species, both plant and animal. Everybody in the Africam team is proud to host CBSG México. Our work as conservationists has been enriched by knowing Ulie, Phil and Onnie.



CBSG México has a long way to go on the road to Mexican conservation, but we are confident that with hard work and dedication we will soon see results that would make Ulie Seal very proud. 🐘

*Submitted by Amy Camacho
Convenor, CBSG México*



CBSG Southern Africa: Off To A Quick Start



Exhilarating, daunting, occasionally terrifying but mostly hugely rewarding and stimulating! Briefly, those words capture the essence of developing a CBSG regional network in Southern Africa. With tons of enthusiasm and perhaps no idea of the

actual enormity of the challenge (possibly a good quality for any CBSG-er!), CBSG South Africa was born in 2000, when Ulie Seal sat around a table with a mixed bunch of local conservation groups and listened to the case being presented by the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) as to why it was so important that a CBSG network be established in South Africa.

CBSG Southern Africa's Mission

Catalyzing conservation action in Southern Africa by assisting in the development of integrated and scientifically sound conservation programs for species and ecosystems, building capacity in the local conservation community and incorporating practical and globally endorsed tools and processes into current and future conservation programs.

They were simple beginnings, with big ideas and loads of support. As a result of the enormous credibility CBSG has in this region, letters of support were received from a wide variety of groups, including *in situ* and *ex situ*, mammalian and marine, ornithological and ecological, community-based and environmental education, NGO and governmental agencies. Most important, however, was the fantastic support of the CBSG staff, Steering Committee, Strategic Associates and the EWT, which was essential for us to take the leap and begin the process of integrating CBSG tools into the operations of the diverse organizations and projects that collectively function to further the local conservation agenda.

The EWT is one of the largest conservation non-governmental organizations in Southern Africa. Established in 1973, the EWT functions through the work of its 21 Working Groups which collectively

coordinate between 90 and 110 projects throughout Southern Africa. The EWT focuses on threatened flagship species and conserves their habitats and ecosystems through integrated conservation programs. The EWT is highly effective as a result of its unique Working Group and partnership-based structure (for example with TRAFFIC and CBSG), its well developed conservation networks, innovative field-based projects, applied research and community conservation programs and partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholder groups, including government agencies, corporations and industry, farmers and landowners. The EWT therefore provides an ideal home for a CBSG Southern Africa.

A local steering committee was established at the outset, comprising individuals with a history of involvement with CBSG and SSC tools and philosophies. In our first year, time was spent developing the network, establishing a group identity and training the manager who attended the PHVA Facilitator's Training course in Jersey in May 2001 and the Advanced Tools Training Workshop in Minneapolis in November 2001. We also undertook our first two workshops including the Global Cheetah Action Plan workshop with Susie Ellis and a Blue Crane PHVA, facilitated by CBSG South Africa



Yolán Friedmann



alone. This rapid development lead to an even busier year in 2002, which was made possible once funding for a full-time manager became available. During 2002, the full variety of CBSG tools and processes were run in South Africa including PHVAs, CAMPs, Conservation

Planning workshops and training in Vortex modeling, Disease Risk Assessment tools and the IUCN Red List criteria and categories. These workshops made a tremendous impact on local conservation. The South African Mammal CAMP, for example, is one of the first instances where a country's cetaceans were regionally assessed and where the results of more than 300 species assessments will result in the publication of a regional Red Data Book.

Results of all of our workshops have been followed up within a year and in all cases outcomes have been encouraging and exciting! For example, international communication forums were formed for cheetah, blue swallows and Biological Resource Banks, new research programs with dedicated staff were developed for blue and wattled cranes, and various cheetah *in situ* and *ex situ* projects were expanded or established. These post-workshop reports detail exciting developments and the feedback provides valuable information to CBSG, which is vital for the continued growth of the regional network.

In the CBSG Southern Africa's first 18 months, more than 300 people from 55 organizations and 22 countries participated in our workshops and these participants form the core of the regional network. CBSG Southern Africa has a web site (www.ewt.org.za/cbsg) and has produced brochures which communicate the CBSG philosophy and tools to interested audiences. Operating as an EWT project implies that CBSG Southern Africa is governed by, reports to and operates under the banner of the EWT. However, funds for all projects must be raised by the project manager and much effort goes into grant writing and fundraising within the corporate and public sectors. Media exposure is seen as a benefit for corporate funders, and also considered a feature of an NGO's public commitments. CBSG Southern Africa therefore receives regular media exposure including



CBSG Southern Africa Office

newspaper, magazine and radio features. With 18 months behind us, we are in a good position to evaluate the needs of the local conservation community and to better position CBSG Southern Africa to effectively meet these. Conservation and organisational planning, strategizing and providing a forum for effective communication and networking are among the priority needs identified in this region. Training in conservation tools such as Vortex modelling and the IUCN Red List Criteria are also in demand and we have set these as priorities for the next year. We will also be present at the World Parks Congress and a number of other regional wildlife congresses, symposia and conferences where we will deliver presentations on our projects and the CBSG philosophy, inform people of the role of the CBSG tools and communicate the outcomes and benefits of the processes we have run in this region.

The group has grown quickly and we anticipate employing a second person to assist in managing the network by the middle of 2003. This proves conclusively the importance of CBSG's work in this region and the value of developing regional networks to address the needs of the local stakeholders and species at grassroots level. The ride so far has been rewarding and a tremendous learning curve! However, we would not have been able to achieve anything if not for the hard work, loyal support and unending encouragement of a large group of people and organizations. 🇿🇦

*Submitted by Yolán Friedmann
Convenor, CBSG Southern Africa*

CBSG Europe - A New Branch on the CBSG Tree



As the latest addition to the CBSG network, CBSG Europe is only in its infancy. For so many years there has only been

sporadic support for CBSG in Europe – not because of a lack of interest in conservation issues or ignorance, but somehow Europe and CBSG have just not matched. It is probably a consequence of a clash between different cultures – different approaches to conservation. Ideally different cultures provide diversity and should normally be considered a benefit. But in this case it had apparently become an obstacle, which was actually one of the main reasons for establishing a CBSG Europe. Europe can benefit from the conservation experience worldwide of CBSG, and CBSG can benefit from the big conservation potential that exists in Europe.

CBSG in Europe will thus focus on:

- 1) promotion of CBSG tools and processes in Europe;
- 2) increasing financial support for CBSG from the European zoo and conservation communities;
- 3) carrying out CBSG conservation efforts within Europe; and
- 4) carrying out CBSG conservation activities in other parts of the world.

This makes the European office a bit different from CBSG's other regional and national networks. The other networks have been established in high biodiversity areas of the world with the goal of increasing CBSG activities in those areas specifically. CBSG Europe can be thought of more as a satellite office, with potential to increase CBSG's core support, in addition to being a regional network.

CBSG Europe is based at Copenhagen Zoo, and we are just about to identify potential members of the European network. We have hired an assistant for a month to do the work of identifying potential CBSG key players in the many countries of Europe. Because of the many different languages and the different cultures from country to country, it is essential to have local strongholds in every country

that can communicate the CBSG message in the right way to that particular country.

The next step will be a sort of PR-campaign for CBSG in Europe, spreading the message that Europeans now have their own CBSG Office who can help them with their conservation-related questions and activities. The European office will also be a place through which European conservation institutions can influence the CBSG processes. The ultimate goal of CBSG Europe will be to establish a strong European network of conservationists and conservation institutions that wish to support CBSG and to use the CBSG tools in their conservation activities. Through such a network CBSG can also become a key player in the European conservation community, and Europe can make an even bigger contribution to conservation worldwide than it does today. 🐾

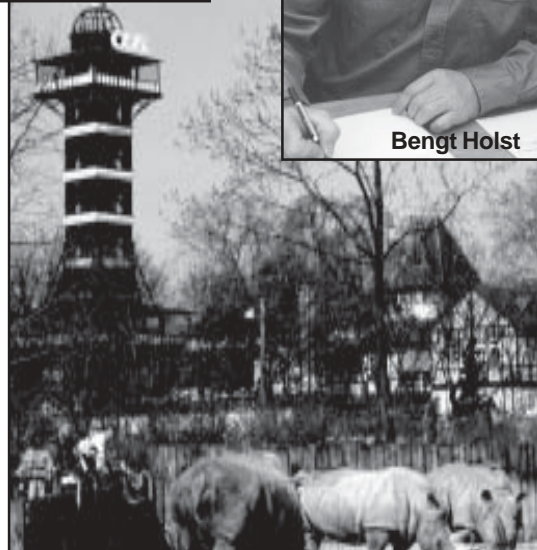
*Submitted by Bengt Holst
Convenor, CBSG Europe*



Frands Carlsen



Bengt Holst

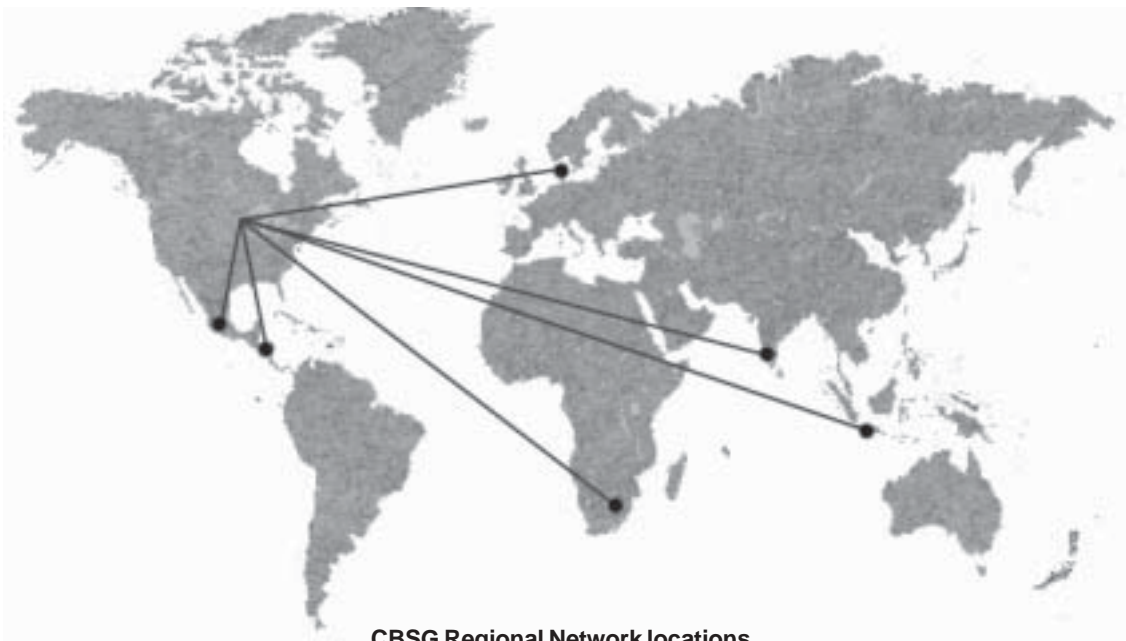




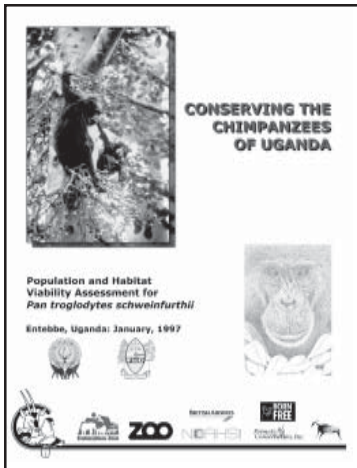
**Ulle Seal,
Jansen Manansang,
Onnie Byers,
Sally Walker,
Yolanda Matamoros, and
Yolan Friedmann at the
2001 CBSG Annual Meeting
in Perth, Australia.**



**Nate Flesness, Onnie Byers, Yolanda Matamoros, Bengt Holst, and Sally Walker at the
2003 mid-year CBSG Steering Committee Meeting in Berne, Switzerland.**



Great Strides in Chimpanzee Cooperation and Protection



The current distribution of the chimpanzee has become considerably fragmented over the past few decades as human populations have rapidly expanded through economic and agricultural development.

Development of a practical conservation management and research program has

been hampered by a lack of detailed information regarding current distribution, problems of protecting animals in remote areas, uncertain priorities and a persistent lack of funding to assist proper conservation action.

CBSG was invited by the Uganda Wildlife Authority to conduct a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) for the chimpanzee in Uganda, 6-9 January 1997. At this workshop, attended by 57 participants, the primary areas of concern were determined to be: (1) wild population distribution and habitat, (2) chimpanzee population threats, (3) population biology and modeling, (4) eco-tourism and education, and (5) captive population management.

Accomplishments

Since the workshop, many accomplishments have been made. In addition, there was collaboration between the Uganda Wildlife Authority and the Uganda Forest department.

(1) All high priority forests were surveyed on the extent of forest cover and numbers of chimpanzees by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) between 1999-2002. They found that their previous population estimate had been low, and instead of the estimated 3,500 to 4,000 chimpanzees, they found approximately 4,900.

(2) Poaching, one of the major threats to the chimpanzee, was studied. Snares, set out for smaller game, were catching chimpanzees by accident;

therefore, research projects determined the number of individuals caught in snares. After the collection of this data, a snare removal program was initiated in 3 national parks, which has resulted in a 75% drop in snare-related chimpanzee deaths. In addition, in order to be more effective in managing disease, a chimpanzee health-monitoring workshop was held in July 2000.

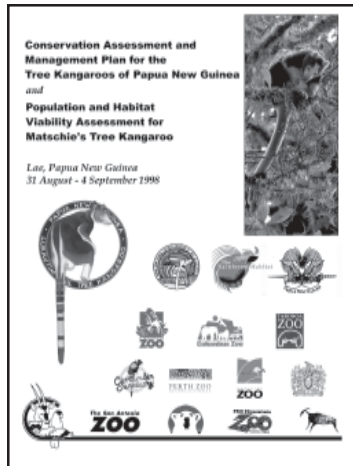
(3) A project has been started with a local community NGO to actively protect small populations of chimpanzees (25-100 individuals) against factors such as habitat loss, local human increase and protected status. In addition, research on behavior and ecology of the chimpanzee population in Uganda has been carried out and this data will provide a baseline for monitoring populations in the future.

(4) Due to the standardization of tourism practices with regards to nature, there have been no new chimpanzee tourism sites developed, and surveys of all current tourist sites have been completed. Some education on threats to the chimpanzee has begun in communities with primary school aged children.

(5) New chimpanzee sanctuaries have been established to keep confiscated chimpanzees outside of protected areas, away from wild populations and not immediately adjacent to human populations. All confiscated chimpanzees are, where possible, being checked as to their subspecies before being introduced to resident chimps in captive populations. 🐼



Tenkile: How Varied Groups Can Achieve Conservation



Introduction

In 1998 Scott's tree kangaroo, *Dendrolagus scottae* or "Tenkile" as it is known locally, was estimated as having a population of only 50 – 100 surviving in northern Papua New Guinea. Its remaining habitat covered only 40 – 50 km². This placed it among one

of the world's most endangered mammals.

In response to this alarming decline, CBSG was invited to collaborate with local agencies, local people, international scientists, and zoo representatives and to facilitate the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) and Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshops in Lae, Papua New Guinea.

At the workshop, Tenkile was categorized as Critically Endangered under IUCN guidelines, with its primary threat identified as hunting pressure by local people. A lack of information about the species was recognized as well.

Accomplishments

As part of the workshop a working group was established to develop a draft Action Plan to protect Tenkile. In 1999, meetings were held with all local



villages to investigate conservation actions and community expectations. Since that first meeting with villagers many things have been accomplished:

- Several meetings with landowners resulting in enthusiasm for Tenkile project.
- Hunting moratorium agreed upon.
- Formation of Tenkile Conservation Alliance (TCA) as a properly constituted NGO under the PNG Associations Act.
- Draft Recovery Plan for Tenkile and golden-mantled tree kangaroo *Dendrolagus goodfellowi pulcherrimus* written in May 2000 by a team from the Zoological Parks and Gardens Board of Victoria, Rainforest Habitat, PNG National Museum and Art Gallery and The Nature Conservancy PNG.
- Grant from Australian High Commission in PNG to build a Haus Win (open sided roofed area) for meeting with local villagers.
- Government site in LUMI identified for a research and captive breeding facility. An agreement on the land title has been reached with National and Provincial government and now only requires local level government approval for the title deed of the land to be handed over to TCA. Once achieved the construction of the research facility can begin.
- Kina 160,000 for housing has been approved by the PNG government.
- Many applications for funding have been submitted to various overseas organizations.
- Plans for including the primary school system in the LUMI district into the primary school conservation education project are underway, with the first teachers expected to come to the Rainforest Habitat in September this year.
- VSO volunteer Rob Small will work on fecal sampling techniques to estimate population numbers of Tenkile.
- Web site www.Tenkile.org developed by Rob Small.
- Production of the Community Information Booklet "TENKILE".
- The first phase of distance sampling of the Tenkile population now estimates 140 animals. 🐾

Submitted by Gert Skipper, Adelaide Zoological Gardens

Shedd Aquarium's Conservation Planning Progress



Conservation is central to the mission of Shedd Aquarium, and has been the focus of an aggressive strategic planning effort over the past few years. The impetus for growth in this area has been the result of a

charge from Board leadership - to create an institute for aquatic conservation that is significant in its impact and stature, and consistent with the tradition of leadership and excellence demonstrated by Shedd Aquarium.

In April 2000, CBSG facilitated a three-day Zoo Conservation Planning workshop. Close to 50 staff members, research committee members, trustees and conservation colleagues came together as part of that workshop. Facilitated discussions helped us assess the conservation history of Shedd, our current conservation involvement and areas of expertise, and laid the groundwork for planning our future. From that meeting a Shedd-based Steering Committee was formed to further the planning process.

The Steering Committee was created with seven working teams, ultimately involving more than 50 aquarium staff members. The committee's teams focused on refining the conservation objectives for the animal collection, field programs, in-house breeding programs, communication, advocacy and institutional practices. A key team worked to define Shedd's ultimate vision for its role in conservation. This vision team identified conservation education as the central theme for the emerging program.

The result of this planning is a model for the Center for Aquatic Conservation. The Center concept is

Center for Aquatic Conservation Case Mission Statement

The Center for Aquatic Conservation is an international leader in conservation education. Through the integration of an unparalleled network of conservation professionals, and with expertise in education, husbandry and exhibits, the Center informs and inspires, leading people to conservation action, and, ultimately, promoting the health of the world's aquatic environments.

currently under review by our Board of Trustees. Details of the plan will most certainly shift over time, but the case statement is our guiding document.

Center Growth from Existing Shedd Programs

The Center will be an integral program of Shedd Aquarium, building on the history of this institution in education, animal husbandry and public display, with the creation of unique, cross-cutting and synergistic programs.

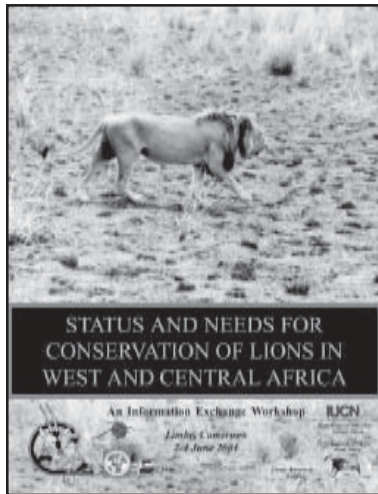
Dynamic and innovative education and outreach programs such as Shedd's Right Bite program for consumer awareness of seafood sustainability, the mentor program developed to provide stewardship for students developing careers in marine science, or the Georges Fellow program that provides advocacy and environmental law experience for first-year law students, are examples of unique and creative programs that offer conservation education to students and the public alike.

A partnership between Shedd Aquarium and Project Seahorse perhaps demonstrates best the potential for innovative and far-reaching education programs that can be fostered and developed in the Center by leveraging the educational strengths of Shedd alongside the conservation resources provided through partners. Locally and internationally, mentoring, public education, classroom education, exhibition and web-based education are all being realized through this synergistic approach. In addition, this partnership has uniquely fostered the growth and development of both Shedd and Project Seahorse, leveraging the business, husbandry and education strengths of Shedd, and the conservation skills and knowledge of this dynamic and emerging aquatic conservation group.

To an extent, elements of the Center are already emerging, and this year has provided us with exciting opportunities to explore its potential. The Conservation Steering Committee continues to be engaged in coordinating the work of conservation-related teams and advancing the planning process with the Center concept in mind. 🐠

Submitted by Jeff Boehm, Shedd Aquarium

Extending West and Central African Lion Conservation Awareness



Historically, lions were fairly widespread in West and Central Africa; however, currently they only live in small isolated populations in protected areas. The African lion is classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, with its

main threats being agriculture, human settlement and poaching. Surprisingly, not much research has been conducted on lions in West and Central Africa, and the international conservation community has been largely uninvolved.

At the 1999 CBSG Annual Meeting, an African Lion Working Group was convened to address this issue, and their resulting primary priority was to hold a survey workshop to gather more information on lions in West and Central Africa. Therefore, in fulfillment of this recommendation, in June of 2001 CBSG, the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, and the African Lion Working Group conducted an information exchange workshop in Cameroon on the status and needs for conservation of lions in West and Central Africa. Twenty-four participants collaborated at the workshop including managers of Protected Areas, representatives of ministries in charge of wildlife, zoos, IUCN, WWF, research and training institutes, and national NGOs.

The main recommendations included making an inventory of human-lion conflicts by circulating a questionnaire among countries, preparing a Lion Management Handbook, standardizing lion survey methods for the entire African region, establishing a regional lion network, sensitizing decision makers and local population on lion problems, and organizing new surveys for collecting lion data.

Accomplishments

Since this workshop, many of the identified objectives have been met. There has been much more media attention locally and internationally to the decline of lions in West and Central Africa. Additionally, awareness of this problem among international conservation organization is heightened.

A special training workshop on the conservation of lions was organized at the Wildlife school in Garoua (Cameroon) between 8-14 April 2002. This workshop was attended by some 40 participants of various West and Central African countries. This workshop was funded by the Foundation Zoos Help – the nature conservation fund of the Dutch Federation of Zoos, and co-organized with the Centre of Environmental Science, Leiden University (The Netherlands).

A West and Central Lion Network was created with the following vision:

To promote the long-term conservation of lion populations across West and Central Africa and to promote management aimed at maintaining long-term viability while reducing human-lion conflict and in a way that contributes to the sustainable development of the region.

An article by Hans Bauer, Hans H. De Iongh, Frank P.G. Princée and Dan Ngantou on research needs for lion conservation in West and Central Africa is in press.

In addition to these accomplishments, many new research projects have been started, and data have been standardized and entered in the African Lion

Database. CBSG, the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, and the African Lion Working Group continue to work together for the survival of African lions far into the future. 🐾



Involving Private Landowners in the Conservation of the Blue Crane



The Blue Crane, South Africa's national bird, is one of South Africa's most threatened and yet culturally significant species. A combination of grassland habitat loss through land use alteration and agrochemical poisoning has led to the significant rapid decline of blue crane populations over the last 30 years.

Due to the severe risks facing blue cranes, CBSG Southern Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust, and the South African Crane Working Group (SACWG) convened a PHVA workshop in October of 2001 in South Africa. The main objective was to develop a conservation management strategy for the long-term survival of the blue crane. Over 30 participants contributed to the 3 ½ day workshop. The following are projects or programs resulting from the workshop, which have been or will be initiated in the forthcoming breeding season.

Karoo Blue Crane Conservation Project

A crane conservation project was established in the Karoo biome of South Africa, where more than a quarter of the world's population of blue cranes exist. Prior to this program, very little concentrated work was performed on the blue crane in this region. Reports from landowners in the area suggested significant declines in the population over the past decade. This program aims at improving the situation through: implementing specific research projects to obtain more relevant information regarding this population, and utilizing this information to make landowners, farm workers and the general public more aware of the issues threatening Blue Cranes and thereby improving the management of these populations on privately owned land.

Blue Crane Habitat Assessment Project

This project will be initiated in the 3 distinct regions of South Africa –the Western Cape, the central Karoo, and the eastern parts of South Africa during the forthcoming breeding season.

In addition, this project focuses activities on conserving the blue crane by generating new knowledge on its ecological requirements, providing important data on endemic grassland transformation and fragmentation, carrying out conservation education activities, and improving the management of threatened bird species in privately-owned farmland.

Developing Conservation Incentives

The SACWG is currently developing a program with the Botanical Society focusing on creating conservation incentives for private landowners to conserve biodiversity on privately owned land. A pilot program will be established in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands during early 2003.

Open Africa Tourism Routes

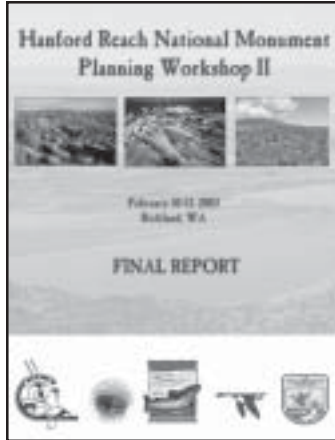
The Overberg Crane Group has established a partnership with Open Africa, a web-based company that creates ecotourism routes focusing on specific species. Four blue crane routes have been established in the Western Cape, which will result in an improved awareness of this species, as well as giving landowners an incentive to conserve these birds on their properties for a direct financial benefit.

Karoo Powerline Project

The threat of powerline collisions to blue cranes is vast. A significant powerline project has been completed in the Karoo region of the Northern Cape Province by the Northern Cape's Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment and Conservation, where recommendations have been made to Eskom (South Africa's electricity supply company) regarding the "proactive mitigation" of hazardous powerlines. The actual mitigation (i.e. fitting of bird flappers to the conductors and earthwires of the powerlines to make them more visible) will commence during the early parts of 2003 depending on the acceptance of the project by Eskom management. ✚

*Submitted by Kevin McCann
Endangered Wildlife Trust,
South African Crane Working Group*

Building on the Past: the Hanford Reach National Monument



The Hanford Reach National Monument (Monument) in southeastern Washington has a unique and remarkable history. In the early 1900s, the site consisted of small towns and homesteads nestled in the temperate desert surrounded by the Columbia River and

mountains. In the 1940s, the predecessor to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) established this area as the site for the creation of uranium and plutonium used in the Nagasaki atomic bomb. The residents were required to leave without knowing why. A buffer zone of land was created around the nuclear site for safety and security of the operation.

In the 1970s, the site was no longer needed for the production of bomb-making materials and a clean-up effort began. At this time, the buffer zone around the Hanford site was opened to scientific research. The land was found to encompass some of the most pristine shrub-steppe habitat in the Columbia Basin. In addition to the sagebrush/grassland communities, a host of forbs, grasses, wetland and riparian plants and fragile microbiotic soil crusts were protected. The area also provided habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including mule deer, elk, beaver, coyote, waterfowl, upland birds, and raptors as well as resident and anadromous fish.

In addition to its natural and historic resources, the area contains one of the most extensive, intact Native American occupation and traditional use areas in the region. The diversity, density, and preservation of these sites are unparalleled in the Pacific Northwest.

This buffer zone land was protected by default due to the Hanford site operation. In 2000, President Bill Clinton made this protection official, declaring this land a National Monument to conserve the unique and biologically and culturally diverse landscape.

Currently, the Monument encompasses approximately 195,000 acres, of which approximately 166,000 acres are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This Service-managed acreage within the Monument area is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, managed under permits and agreements with the DOE. By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in a manner consistent with an approved Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP).

In late 2002, CBSG was invited to design and facilitate the process for development of a CCP for the Monument. Because of the rich and varied history and use of this site—and the years of debate over its future—there were many stakeholders involved. Fifty-one stakeholders from federal, state and local government agencies, non-government organizations, local public, and Native American Tribes committed 3 ½ days out of their busy schedules to participate in the first of three workshops designed to create the CCP.

What started out as conflict and mistrust between these diverse groups ended up in a beautifully crafted vision statement and management goals for the Monument. After significant input, review and revision, all participants whole-heartedly supported the final product. Common ground was established, many new trusting partnerships formed, and the CCP process continues productively. Because of their diverse and dedicated participation in the process, the Hanford Reach National Monument CCP will have the support of these stakeholders, and its implementation is assured. 🍷



Apres le CAMP– Putting Information into Action by a Regional Network



Our Chiroptera network of bat specialists, CCINSA, which represents the IUCN SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group in South Asia and its recent CAMP workshop, can be used as a case study for catalyzing conservation action. The Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia was formed

on the recommendation of a working group on bats at the 1997 Indian Mammal CAMP. Chiroptera is a very large taxon group, making up about 25% of India's mammal diversity. After a few years, this network has nearly 90 members.

With the network in place, planning for a CAMP only for the bats of South Asia was very straightforward. A report of this CAMP was published in *CBSG News*, June 2002. The efficacy of the Network was immediately obvious: nearly 40 bat workers attended and assessed 120 species of South Asian bats with only 8 species data deficient as compared to 50% data deficient species at the 1997 CAMP. Special Issues Working Groups at the CAMP identified problems and solutions, among the latter of which was the need for intensive education, awareness building, and lobbying in support of bats.

In South Asia, bats are not well known. The tremendous service they provide for ecosystems survival and human health is legion. Yet the massive number of mosquitoes and other harmful insects they consume goes unnoticed while the relatively small amount of fruits they eat is given much importance. In India, fruit bats are classified as vermin on the Indian Wildlife Protection Act.

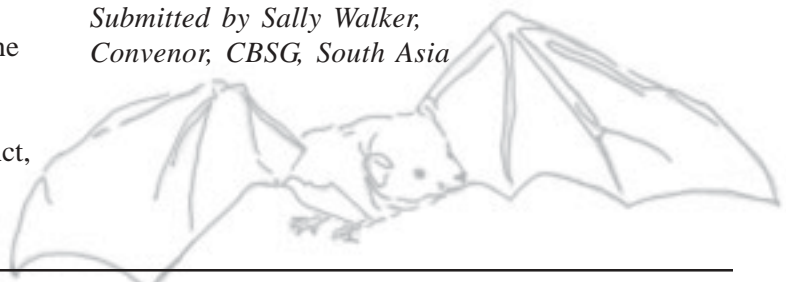
Lobbying began immediately after the workshop, when CBSG South Asia sent the CAMP output in the name of the Chiroptera network to Ministry of Environment officials. They were in the process of amending the Schedules of the Wildlife Protection Act, and two species of Chiroptera were upgraded to protected status for the first time.

The network host, Zoo Outreach Organisation, with years of experience in public education drew up a comprehensive Chiroptera Education Program based on the recommendations of the Education and Awareness Working Group and the personal commitments of participants. A large number of participants at the Bat CAMP indicated they would like to conduct education programs on bats themselves, and also to start bat clubs. With generous funding from Chester Zoo, Bat Conservation International and Flora and Fauna International, the education program has started. There are several components, which are still under design. Some components were ready by Wildlife Week last October and several senior bat biologists requested education packets and conducted programs for school children, college students and groups of adults. Some have already initiated Bat Clubs. The bat packets were distributed also to zoos that used them in Wildlife Week and Animal Welfare Fortnightly. The number of potential educators and advocates for bats out there keeps on growing.

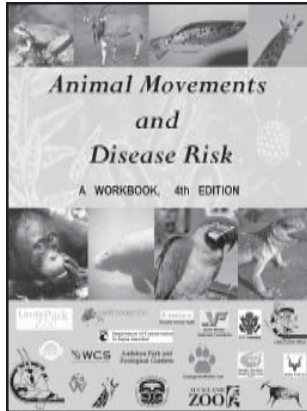
The use of field biologists as educators is particularly effective. What better advocate for bats than a bat biologist? It is wonderful to see a high level scientist explaining the anatomy and ecology of bats to a bunch of kids. They also get a tremendous sense of satisfaction. We publish their reports in the newsletter and Bat Conservation International is doing a feature on this program.

A target group of 500 foresters in charge of Protected Areas have been addressed with *Bat Net Newsletter*, flyers on the utility of bats in the forest ecosystem, offers of Bat Packets for those who conduct education in their area and a survey of bat trees. Response has been slow but bats are a completely new concern for foresters. 🦇

*Submitted by Sally Walker,
Convenor, CBSG, South Asia*



Disease Risk Assessment Tools and Workshops



Ulie and many of his colleagues from the fields of veterinary medicine and conservation biology recognized a need in the 1980s for a practical, broadly applicable set of tools for wildlife managers to use to address disease issues associated with wildlife translocations. Disease was widely recognized as

a significant threat for many endangered species populations. This threat increases when animal translocations are among the tools used to help manage and conserve the population. There had been wide disparity in animal management and conservation programs with regard to how this threat is viewed and addressed, ranging from ignoring the risk altogether to attempting to establish a goal of zero risk of any possible transfer of disease. In many cases attempts to assess risk were frustrated by the lack of any real data concerning disease processes in wild populations or species and by the complexity of the tools and systems that many experts in the risk assessment field used. In order to address these issues CBSG initiated a series of workshops in 1991 to address these issues, beginning with one at the National Zoo in Washington, DC, then a large one in Oakland in 1992 and continued through a series of smaller workshops at Pretoria and at Cincinnati in 1999 and then at Omaha and New Orleans in 2000. The series of development workshops concluded with a workshop at White Oak Plantation in June of 2001. An initial beta testing training workshop was held to apply these tools in September of 2001 prior to the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians annual meeting in Orlando. The result of this effort was a workbook “toolkit” and a structured training workshop for the application of these tools.

Disease Risk Assessment Workbook

The workbook and the tools contained within are designed to provide a practical method for wildlife professionals involved in day-to-day decision making about wildlife management to make reasonable decisions to benefit wildlife and its conservation. The workbook provides a framework for a wide range of individuals with many different kinds of experience and expertise using limited or incomplete information to think about and address the issue of disease and how it relates to wildlife populations and animal translocation projects. The tools go through several concurrent evolutions as they develop. Each tool is designed to potentially stand alone if appropriate or to contribute to the other tools in the workbook if needed. They begin on a very fundamental level with regard to disease and risk analysis and they progress in complexity and mathematical rigor. They also begin on a very basic level with regard to the technology required to use them, initially pencil and paper, and progress to more complex software programs that require the use of a computer and some significant training to apply. Most importantly perhaps, the tools begin on a very intuitive level of assessment and progress through a series of transitions to a more qualitative assessment and finally to quantitative methods of assessment. The tools are designed to be flexible and modifiable according to each situation, to enable professionals to incorporate not only published, statistically valid data but also to be able to make reasonable decisions when there is no data available and to capture valuable information available from personal experience, field observation and clinical impression.

Workbook Toolkit

Disease List and Project Diagram: This initial step begins the process of thinking about disease risk by asking users to simply record the information they have readily at hand through their experience, intuition and training. It consists of three simple pencil and



paper exercises that will form the basis of subsequent steps in the process.

Hazard Identification: The hazard identification process is a qualitative assessment. The process should yield information required to answer the question: are the potential effects of this disease harmful enough to warrant further assessment using other tools available? Hazard identification also considers characteristics of the host, the disease agent and the environment in which the disease/host interaction takes place.

Decision Analysis Protocols:

This is the area where participants frame the issue to create a flow chart of the problem and sort potential hazards ranked in the hazard identification phase. It also enables them to begin to identify control points where effective actions may be taken to deal with hazards identified.

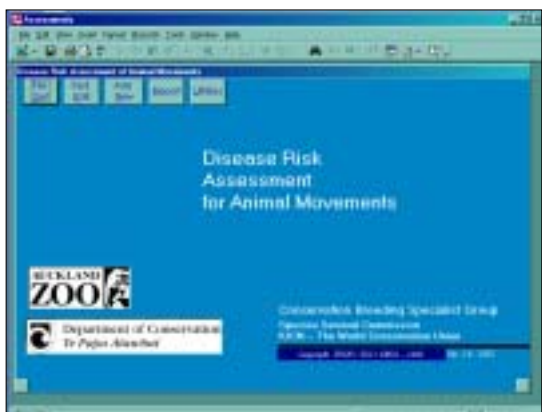
System Modeling- Stella and Vensim: Modeling creates an explicit, visual picture of our current beliefs and understanding about a problem. The participants use modeling software, like STELLA® or Vensim®, to compose this picture, then simulate and predict the logical outcomes from this vision. Sensitivity analysis of the model identifies the factors that most strongly influence outcomes. Models can, additionally, be used to predict consequences, compare potential programs or policies, and quantify efficacy of interventions. Prediction of consequences and evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions are major goals of disease risk assessment.

Health Assessment Worksheet for Animal Movements: This worksheet is presented as a paper form in the workbook as well as in electronic format on the CD provided. The worksheet provides a framework for developing quarantine and health screening protocols aimed at minimizing disease risks during the movement of wildlife. This process enables wildlife managers and veterinarians to consider the specific disease risk issues associated with each planned wildlife translocation and to communicate this,

via the worksheet, to all involved in the animal movement.

Modeling of Population and Disease Dynamics: OUTBREAK and VORTEX :

Population viability analysis (PVA) has become a valuable tool in the arsenal of conservation biologists as they seek to develop more effective ways to manage and conserve endangered and threatened wildlife species. We have attempted to construct a detailed integrated simulation package that will allow modeling of intertwined wildlife population dynamics and wildlife disease. This simulation modeling environment will improve our understanding of both systems and, therefore, will promote a closer collaboration between wildlife population biologists and veterinarians as they work to conserve our planet's biological diversity.



Training Workshops

The workshops to date have been approximately three days long. The workshops, as well as the workbook, are designed to be particularly useful for hands-on wildlife managers and for animal program managers, especially in situations where there are little hard data. Participants are each provided with a workbook containing forms, instructions and guidelines of the basic tools to be used in the workshop as well as a CD with software programs needed. Participants bring information from actual programs they work with involving animal moves, if it is available. The information is then used in the workshop in the application of the tools. The first half day consists of presentations of the basic tools and their application as well as presentations briefly addressing and describing the more complex and sophisticated things that can be done with them. Subsequently participants divide into working groups of 2 or 3 per group and work through the process of using the tools with their own data, with the support of facilitators familiar with the tools. Periodic plenary sessions of all the workshop participants convene in order to present assessments



in progress and to discuss use of the tools themselves. The outcome of the workshop is that attendees that actively participate in the process will be familiar with the use of the basic tools and will have a set of forms, instructions and guidelines to be used in future animal movement programs to assess disease risk.

Workshops to Date as of March 2003

Mexico Workshop: This three day workshop, held in October 2002 and organized by CBSG Mexico, was the first one in which CBSG presented the workbook of tools for Disease Risk Assessment. There were 40 participants in the workshop, including a number of field biologists, wildlife administrators, captive animal managers, and veterinarians from wildlife departments, zoos and university programs. Projects that the workshop participants worked on included risk assessments for a potential project to establish corridors between howler monkey habitats, a wolf reintroduction project, and a long-term sea lion study in which local people and associated pets as well as vermin pose a disease risk to the sea lion population.

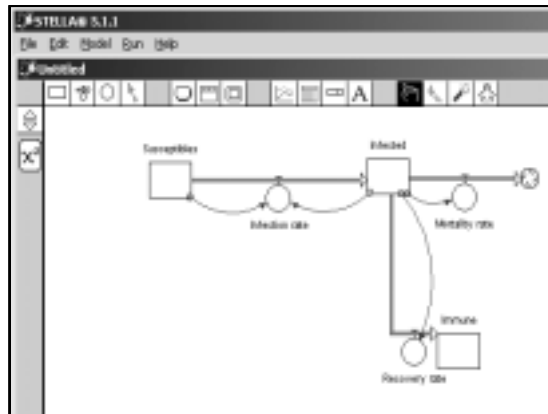
South Africa Workshop: Yolana Friedman of CBSG, Southern Africa organized this workshop held in November 2002. Forty-nine trainees from 8 countries participated in this three and a half day training course. Participants included reserve managers, parks technical services managers, game managers, nature conservators, wildlife translocation directors, rehabilitators, and wildlife biologists as well as veterinarians and epidemiologists. In total, 11 groups were established dealing with issues such as the wildlife/livestock interface, cheetah translocation, import/export issues, biomaterials banking and others.

Costa Rica Workshop: Organized by Yolanda Matamoros and CBSG MesoAmerica, this workshop was held April 28-30 2003. Results were not available at the printing of this newsletter.

Future Development

CBSG recognizes that the tools are incomplete as they are. Some tools are in place but not fully utilized, such as the disease database to be constructed from the electronic version of the Health Assessment Worksheet. Other tools have been identified as valuable but a satisfactory protocol meeting the criteria of flexibility, simplicity and broad application has not yet been developed or identified. In this

context is a method for doing basic cost-risk analysis. Mapping and the use of the Global Information System in projects and assessments is an area that all agree is extremely potentially valuable to this process. However this area will take substantial work to define exactly in the way it can be used and to develop a tool using the techniques and technology that will provide information of value for disease risk assessment.



Appreciation

The development of the workbook and the workshop for disease risk assessment has been an extraordinary effort. Numerous individuals have made significant contributions to this process and to try to identify everyone who has worked on it would be a nearly impossible task. Two commercial companies in particular deserve recognition because of their agreement to let us use their software in this program: Ventana Systems Inc. of Harvard, Massachusetts (Vensim software) and the Palisade Corporation of Newfield, New York (@Risk software). Several institutions have contributed significantly to making this project work through support for workshops, instructors' time, and manual production. The extensive support and work by everyone is deeply appreciated. 🙏

*Submitted by Doug Armstrong
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo*



Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation

Ulie's great passion and talent was his creative thinking about how new science could be most effectively applied to solving the problems of wildlife conservation. His contributions were amplified many times over by his further ability to recognize, encourage, and utilize others who also were making such innovative contributions. Fittingly, the CBSG has chosen to honor Ulie by creating the *Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation*.

Each year, the CBSG will consider nominations for this award. All members of CBSG are invited to submit nominations by way of email or post to the CBSG office. Nominations should describe concisely how the person exemplifies innovation in the application of science to conservation. The contri-

butions of a nominee need not have been through work connected with the CBSG, but should reflect the CBSG values of creative thinking that results in improved conservation action. Nominees must be living individuals. A committee appointed by the CBSG Chair will review all nominations. (We thank Bill Conway and Lee Simmons for offering to serve with Bob Lacy as the first award committee.) The award may not be given each year.

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo has developed a medal to recognize the recipients of the Ulysses S. Seal Award. The award will be presented at the 2003 CBSG Annual Meeting (Puntarenas, Costa Rica, November 2003). Any nominations for the award this year should be made by 31 August 2003. 🇺🇸



Please send nominations to:

Conservation Breeding Specialist Group
12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124 USA
phone: 952-997-9800
fax: 952-432-2757
email: office@cbsg.org
internet: www.cbsg.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CBSG Has A New Program Officer



In September 2002, Kathy Traylor-Holzer joined the CBSG staff as Program Officer. After completing her Master's degree and Pre-doctoral fellowship in animal behavior research, Kathy spent 18 years working at the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley in a variety of capacities involving conservation and research. As the zoo's Conservation Biologist and later Population Analyst/Registrar, she worked in the same building as CBSG and became involved with CBSG activities in 1991. Her collaboration with CBSG while at the Minnesota Zoo included facilitation and training at over 20 CBSG workshops, primarily PHVAs, biomedical surveys and zoo masterplans in North America and Asia. She also served as Editor of the CBSG Newsletter from 1997 to 2001.

Kathy's expertise centers on genetic management of captive populations. She is the regional studbook keeper for Amur and Indochinese tigers and serves as the population management advisor to the AZA Tiger Species Survival Plan and the CAZG South China tiger breeding program. She has recently completed her doctoral dissertation that models genetic management strategies for captive tiger populations. She plans to expand upon her interests in small population biology, human-carnivore conflict, and many other conservation-related issues in her new position at CBSG. 📧

Reintroduction Specialist Group Resource CD

The IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group (RSG) has just released a resource CD which includes an introduction to the RSG, 22 issues of RSG's newsletters, RSG Guidelines, SSC and other conservation policies and reports; reintroduction Practitioners Directory, RSG Bibliography, and RSG and SSC Strategic Plans. For further information please contact: IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group, Environmental Research & Wildlife Development Agency, P.O. Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Email Pritpal Soorae at: PSoorae@erwda.gov.ae. 📧

Obituary: Dr. Jose Marcio Ayres

Dr. Jose Marcio Ayres passed away on March 7 of this year. Marcio was undergoing radical chemotherapy for lung cancer that had spread to his brain and liver. The cancer was first detected in October of 2001, and since then Marcio had been treated at Mt. Sinai. Marcio is survived by his wife, Carolina, and two children.

Marcio, who held WCS's Carter Chair in Rainforest Ecology, helped create the Mamiraua and Amana Sustainable Development Reserves, part of a protected block of rainforest in the heart of the Amazon Basin. Ayres' unique vision for this area called for local people to not only remain in the reserve, but have a direct say in its management. This revolutionary concept represented a radical departure from traditional parks-creation, which called for the removal of local people from protected areas. 📧

CBSG *News*

*Newsletter of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group
Species Survival Commission
IUCN – World Conservation Union*



Ulrie Seal, 1929-2003



This newsletter is a tribute to the life and work of Ulrie Seal. He took an IUCN Specialist Group with 15 members and, over the course of 24 years, turned it into a global network of over 900 members that continues to greatly impact the conservation of the world's biodiversity. The CBSG network has become widespread and highly effective, providing an interdisciplinary vehicle for communication and collaboration between individuals from captive breeding community, wildlife managers, non-governmental organizations, governments, and the private sector. Ulrie further expanded CBSG's capacity by establishing regional network offices in South Asia, Mesoamerica, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, and Europe. As Chairman, Ulrie contributed to the survival of thousands of plant and animal species throughout the world, from the tiny goblin fern in northern Minnesota forests to the mountain gorillas of Uganda. Ulrie influenced and touched countless individuals who continue to carry on his passion for conservation.