



## CPSG Brasil Activities: September 2016 - September 2017

CPSG Brasil is not based at any institution and is run voluntarily by its members, which are all based in different institutions throughout Brazil. The convenor, **Arnaud Desbiez**, is the Conservation Manager for Latin America at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) based in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul. **Fabiana Lopes Rocha** has a post-doctoral position PPGEMA Campus IV / Universidade Federal da Paraíba – UFPB based in Joao Pessoa, Paraiba. **Katia Ferraz** is a professor a Professor at the University of São Paulo (ESALQ/USP), Piracicaba, São Paulo, **Leandro Jerusalinsky** is the director of the Centro Nacional de Pesquisa e Conservação dos Primatas Brasileiros (CPB), Joao Pessoa, Paraiba. **Silvio Marchini** has a post-doctoral position at the University of São Paulo (ESALQ/USP), Piracicaba, São Paulo, **Yara Barros** is the Conservation director of the Parque das Aves in Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná.

In February CPSG Brasil participated in the initial creative thinking meeting in Minnesota. This had a profound impact on planning the future for CPSG Brasil and how the network can best contribute to the future of species conservation planning in the SSC. Results from this meeting are that CPSG Brasil is trying to increase its number of members and launching training workshops and even a symposium highlighting the use of CPSG tools. Members of CPSG participated in 2 workshops (Harpy eagle and Javan Leopard), two training courses are planned (Ex situ guidelines- early November and Disease Risk Assessment at the end of November) and two symposiums are in preparation (integrated conservation early November and wildlife health end of November).

### WORKSHOPS

**Harpy Eagle PHVA.** The harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) is the largest eagle in the Americas, with more than half of its distribution concentrated in Brazil in the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest. Harpy eagles prefer to nest in emerging trees in the forest canopy and live on a diet composed mainly of arboreal prey. This species is considered Near Threatened globally, Vulnerable in Brazil, and Critically Endangered in the Atlantic Forest due to intense habitat loss and hunting. CPSG Brasil was invited by the Harpy Eagle Conservation Program to design and facilitate a five day workshop for data compilation and analysis to assess the conservation status of the harpy eagle in Brazil, using some of our specialized tools to complement the existing national action plan. The workshop was held on 13-18 March in Espirito Santo State, Brazil. Dr. Kathy Traylor Holzer (CPSG HQ) mentored the CPSG Brasil team on several aspects of the workshop, including refinement of the PVA model parameters, evaluation of *ex situ* options, and workshop design and facilitation. CPSG Brasil's distribution modeling updated the current species distribution map based on recent presence records and evaluated the suitability of the landscape for species occurrence. Also, distribution modeling helped estimate habitat fragmentation and carrying capacity, improving the PVA model. Workshop participants assessed potential *ex situ* conservation roles, which resulted in the design of an *ex situ* management program for the harpy eagle. This is the first time that IUCN SSC *ex situ* guidelines have been systematically applied in a species conservation planning workshop in Brazil. The participants developed recommendations for specific actions within the Government National Action Plan for the conservation of Amazonian birds and the Action Plan for the conservation of Atlantic Forest birds, in addition to research priorities for the species. The workshop is part of the activities commemorating



20 years of the Harpy Eagle Conservation Program, which has been working since 1997 on research and conservation of harpy eagles in Brazil.

**Javan Leopard PVA.** The Javan leopard (*Panthera pardus melas*) is endemic to the Indonesian island of Java, where it functions as the top predator. Habitat conversion and fragmentation as well as hunting in this densely human-populated landscape has led to severe population decline and local extinctions in the past two decades, and this subspecies is now listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN. A two-day SDM and PVA development workshop was held at Taman Safari Indonesia in May 2017. The CPSG team was represented by a blending of skills from CPSG HQ, CPSG Europe and CPSG Brasil. Katia Ferraz shared her experience in spatial distribution modeling. Participants provided presence data and also participated along the whole process selecting a predictive model of Javan Leopard distribution in Java and helping in the population's identification. Data from populations were obtained and supplemented the PVA analysis. The modeling activities are still going on in order to improve results for the PHVA meeting (Jan 2017).

## TRAINING COURSES

- Katia Ferraz is coordinating and training a group of graduate students to support modeling activities for CPSG at Wildlife Ecology, Management and Conservation Lab – (LEMaC/ESALQ/University of São Paulo).
- CPSG, Copenhagen Zoo and Parque das Aves will be offering a free course on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November on applying the IUCN *ex situ* guidelines in species conservation planning as well as a tool for implement *ex situ* recommendations. Kristin Leus e Bengt Holst will be teaching the course. Government representatives working on species action planning as well as members of the Brazilian Zoo community were invited to participate.
- Wildlife Disease Risk Assessment (DRA) training workshop will be offered from the 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of November. Dr. Richard M. Jakob-Hoff will be providing the training. The organization of the workshop is being done by CPSG Brasil and CPSG Australasia, Fundação Parque Zoológico de São Paulo (FPZSP), Universidade Federal da Paraíba – UFPB, Auckland Zoo

## SYMPOSIUMS

**International Symposium of Integrated Conservation.** The 1st International Symposium of Integrated Conservation is taking place 8-10 November 2017 in Brazil. Organized by CPSG and Parque das Aves, the symposium will highlight the One Plan Approach (OPA) and its success in Latin America, and will also provide information on the important roles zoos can play in conservation.

**Wildlife Health Symposium. 25-26<sup>th</sup> of November** is CPSG Brasil and CPSG Australasia, Fundação Parque Zoológico de São Paulo (FPZSP), Universidade Federal da Paraíba – UFPB, Auckland Zoo and will bring together leading experts in wildlife health for 2 days of presentations and discussions.

*Finally CPSG Brasil continues to engage with participants of previous workshops as continues to be involved with implementation of past action plans.*