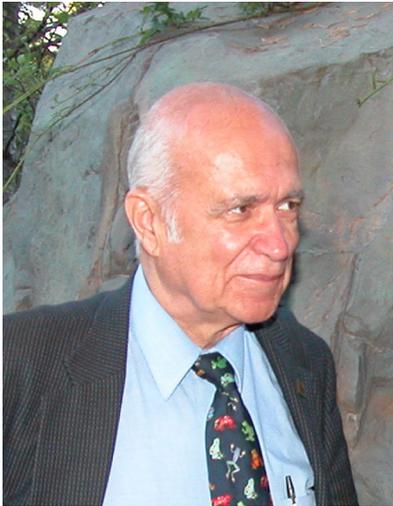


Remembering George Rabb



No one ever described Dr. George Rabb as charismatic. It is amazing that someone who was as shy as George could have had such an incredible impact, but his passion and vision inspired many to join in the battle to save the earth's vanishing species and habitats. He was one of those rare people whose focus was never on himself, but on what needed to be

done for conservation. Often operating behind-the-scenes, George encouraged, and frequently directed, others to tackle difficult conservation issues, always providing the knowledge and encouragement necessary to support their efforts. Those who knew George knew that behind what sometimes seemed to be a gruff exterior there was a kind, generous, and caring man with a heart of gold. Many have described him as a true gentleman and indeed he was.

George's accomplishments are many and diverse. During his nearly 30 year tenure as Director of the Brookfield Zoo, he established the first zoo research department devoted to conservation, infused science into the practice of animal management, and integrated the concepts emerging from the developing discipline of conservation psychology into exhibit design. He was instrumental in the formation of the International Species Information System (now Species360), the Society for Conservation Biology, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums SSP program, and Chicago Wilderness, a regional alliance of conservation partners. He was always a strong advocate for international cooperation and linking ex situ with in situ conservation – as evidenced by his support for collaboration across continents to strengthen okapi breeding programs and his support for the Okapi Conservation Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

From 1989 to 1996 he chaired the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). He vigorously supported the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (now the Conservation Planning Specialist Group, CPSG), both in his advocacy for its ambitious mission and in his long-time personal support. He was an active board member of the Center for Humans and Nature, Chicago Wilderness, the Illinois State Museum, and the Defenders of Wildlife. Perhaps George's biggest contribution was as founder and champion of the amphibian conservation movement. Recognizing the alarming rate of amphibian declines worldwide, as SSC chair he formed the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force. This led to the Global Amphibian Assessment in 2004, the formation of the SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (2005) and the Amphibian Ark (2006), the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (2005), and in 2011 the founding of the Amphibian Survival Alliance. George remained involved every step of the way and many amphibian species persist today because of his efforts. We will miss him very much.

CPSG eUpdate: August 2017

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Contributors: Onnie Byers, Bob Lacy, Anne Baker, Jamie Copsey, Phil Miller, Kathy Traylor-Holzer

Thanks to our translators, Jean-Luc Berthier and Elizabeth Townsend (French), and Celia Sánchez (Spanish), for helping make this publication available in the three official languages of IUCN.



www.cpsg.org



Announcements

Embracing a New Name and a New Mandate

As you have very likely already heard, we have a new name! Since 1979, CBSG has been helping to conserve threatened and endangered species worldwide. Given the continued deterioration in the overall state of the world's wildlife and wild places, it is clear that species conservation planning is crucial and an increase in its scale and effectiveness is urgently needed.

Recognizing the value of CBSG's inclusive, participatory planning processes, and our community of experts, in catalyzing and guiding effective action for species, SSC Chair Jon Paul Rodríguez has asked CBSG to lead a new initiative to substantially increase the SSC's conservation planning efforts. With over 30 years of species conservation planning experience and our loyal community, including the generous zoos, aquariums, zoo associations, and individuals that make up our Global Conservation Network, CBSG is prepared to take on this responsibility.

So, to better align our name with our work, we have changed our name to the **Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG)**.

What will not change is CPSG's commitment to integrated species conservation planning (now referred to as the One Plan Approach), our principles of collaboration, sound science and neutral facilitation, and our mission of saving threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide.

Introducing CPSG's Director of Training



We are thrilled to welcome Jamie Copsey to CPSG! Jamie has over 20 years of conservation experience. He spent the last 18 years working for Durrell Wildlife Trust most recently as the Managing Director of Durrell Conservation Training Ltd.

Jamie will be working with the team to develop the strategic plan for

the organization over the coming four years, as we determine how best to scale up global capacity for species conservation planning. Areas of focus for him will be around expanding the existing training course program, and establishing development paths for potential new conservation planners who can help deliver on the growing need for species conservation planning.

Welcoming a New Face

After five years of exceptional service for CPSG and the conservation community, Communications Officer Emily Wick stepped down from her position in early June 2017 to follow her dream of living and working in the Boundary Waters, a gorgeous region of wilderness straddling the border between Minnesota and Ontario, Canada. Emily brought CPSG to a new level by enhancing the visual content quality of our Annual Report, creating an active social media presence, and engaged our members in more meaningful ways. By far, her greatest accomplishment with CPSG was producing our book *Second Nature*.



Sofia Bilkadi

Though it is bittersweet to see Emily go, we are excited to have Sofia Bilkadi join the CPSG team as the new Communications Officer. Sofia has a background in anthropology and ecology and since starting a couple of months ago, has helped with the transition from CBSG to CPSG. Sofia will continue to create new ways of engaging with the CPSG community and help support and promote our mission as CPSG continues to evolve.



Emily Wick

Check Out Our Website For More Information

WWW.CPSG.ORG

Don't Forget to Update Your Contacts

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2017 CPSG Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for the 2017 CPSG Annual Meeting hosted by Zoo Berlin in Berlin, Germany from 12-15 October 2017. Regular registration is open until 31 August 2017, and late registration begins 1 September 2017. Please visit [https:// www.cbgs2017.org](https://www.cbgs2017.org) for more information and to register.

Working group topics include:

- Incorporating human-wildlife conflict issues into conservation planning
- Prioritization for planning
- Global conservation key performance indicators (KPIs)
- Building species conservation planning capacity across the SSC
- Tool development-*Getting the most out of the ICAP process*
- Tool development-*Exploring methods for multi-species planning*
- Data science for the One Plan Approach: Exploring the potential of Species 360 in synergy with other biodiversity information systems to support data-driven decisions of Specialist Groups and animal managers
- Understanding and measuring progress towards the global target of halting extinction
- New training program for the tools of the Species Conservation Toolkit Initiative



Zoo Berlin

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.

Lectures will be in Portuguese, English and Spanish.

Location: Auditorium of the National Park of Iguazu, Foz do Iguazu, Brazil

Go to their Facebook page for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/SimposioConservacao/>

To register, please fill out this [form](#).

Training for Effective Conservation Translocations

The IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group 4-day training course is designed for conservation biologists and managers working on reintroductions and conservation translocations. Through lectures, tools training sessions, and small group activities, participants will learn how to apply IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations. The workshop is being held from 27-30 November 2017. CPSG Jamie Copley will be co-facilitating.

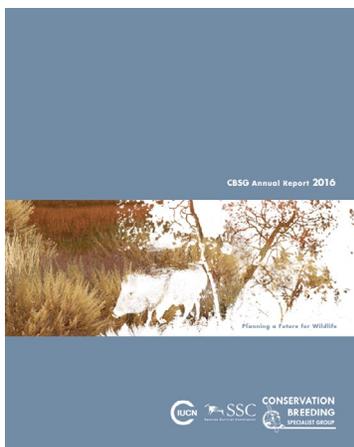
The workshop is sponsored by ZSL, EAZA and Calgary Zoo.

To learn more about the training and how to register: <https://www.zsl.org/science/whats-on/iucn-reintroduction-specialist-group-training-for-effective-conservation>

Publications

CBSG Annual Report 2016

http://www.cpsg.org/sites/cpsg.org/files/documents/2016_Annual_Report_CBSG1_0.pdf



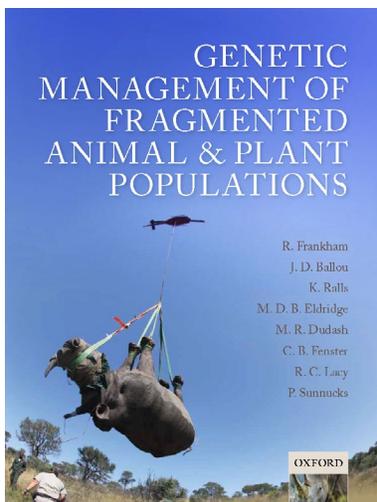
Bellinger River Snapping Turtle Workshop Summary

<http://www.cpsg.org/content/workshop-summary-bellinger-river-snapping-turtle-2016>

Genetic Management of Fragmented Animal and Plant Populations

The new book explores the challenge of genetic management of fragmented populations of threatened plant and animal species.

The One Plan Approach is highlighted throughout the book and much of the data and methodologies presented are the result of science done by zoos being applied to *in situ* conservation and population management.



Authors: Richard Frankham*, Jonathan D. Ballou*, Katherine Ralls*, Mark Eldridge, Michele R. Dudash, Charles B Fenster, Robert C. Lacy*, and Paul Sunnucks.

* CPSG Members/Collaborators

Available at:

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/genetic-management-of-fragmented-animal-and-plant-populations-9780198783398?cc=us&lang=en&#>

Workshop Updates



Cale Nordmeyer, Minnesota Zoo

A Future for Dakota Skippers

In 2015, CPSG facilitated a workshop for Dakota skippers and Poweshiek skipperlings, at the invitation of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Minnesota Zoo, to evaluate the feasibility of incorporating an *ex situ* management element into broader conservation activities. Dakota skippers almost disappeared from Minnesota prairies and other areas of the Midwest due to large-scale conversion of their habitat to agriculture.

As a result of the workshop, the Minnesota Zoo expanded their Dakota skipper collection and in June 2017 reintroduced 200 of the butterflies to The Nature Conservancy's Hole-in-the-Mountain Prairie Reserve in Minnesota, where they had not been seen in almost 10 years. The process will be repeated for the next three years. Read more here <http://mnzoo.org/blog/milestone-reintroducing-lost-prairie-butterfly-first-time/>



Recent Activities

A Proposed Project for Mountain Gorilla Conservation Planning

In 1997, the world's population of mountain gorillas was down to approximately 650 individuals distributed across the border regions of Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Because of concerns about the long-term viability of the taxon, CPSG was invited to organized and conduct a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop process to plan a secure future for mountain gorillas across their current distribution. This workshop was conducted in Kampala, Uganda in December, 1997 and led to the creation of a long-term management plan for mountain gorillas.

Twenty years later, there are now likely more than 800 mountain gorillas in the two populations, with both populations showing evidence of sustained growth. However, there are still a number of concerns about the future of mountain gorillas across their range. While gorilla tourism brings people from around the world to see habituated groups, bringing much-needed financial resources to local communities and the national government authorities, gorilla veterinarians express growing concerns over the risk of transmission of dangerous infectious diseases from human visitors. In addition, the continued rapid growth of the local human population puts pressure on the land surrounding the National Parks which may compromise the demographic stability of the gorilla populations.



Matej Hudovernik | Dreamstime.com

In response to these mounting concerns, a group of mountain gorilla conservation organizations including the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP), Gorilla Doctors, and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (DFGF) have reached out once again to CPSG to explore the feasibility of a second conservation planning process to expand the original 1997 workshop product. The proposed mountain gorilla conservation planning project would consist of an analytical phase using CPSG's population viability analysis (PVA) process; and a deliberative phase using the PHVA workshop process.

We will update you on the future of this important project in upcoming editions of our E-Update.

Expanding *VORTEX* Modeling Skills in South Africa



K. Traylor-Holzer

Quantitative risk assessment is an important component of species conservation planning, yet requires specialized skills to be effective. CPSG is working to expand these skills within and outside of our membership. In May 2017 CPSG conducted a four-day intensive *VORTEX* 10 training course for six biologists from both the in situ (Endangered Wildlife Trust) and ex situ (PAAZA) communities to support our CPSG Southern Africa regional resource center. In addition to modeling skills the course included other processes and tools valuable to conservation planning within a One Plan Approach framework. The trainees are already working to apply their new skills to conservation planning for several African species, including the Southern ground hornbill, cape vulture and African penguin.

PVA Development for the Javan Leopard

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. Human-leopard conflicts are escalating and lead to killing or capture of problem leopards. A governmental Javan Leopard Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for 2015-2025 has been developed to address this critical situation. CPSG was approached to provide species distribution modelling (SDM) and population viability analysis (PVA) modelling to inform decisions that need to be taken to deliver the plans' recommendations, such as meta-population management, priority areas for corridors/buffers, conflict mitigation strategies, and monitoring and research priorities.

A two-day SDM and PVA development workshop was held at Taman Safari Indonesia in May 2017 and was attended by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry and NGO and zoo biologists working on Javan leopard conservation. The CPSG team represented a blending of skills from CPSG HQ, CPSG Europe and CPSG Brasil to introduce spatial distribution and population modeling tools and how they might support management decisions. Model inputs were discussed and revised for both types of models. An overview of the ex situ population from the International Studbook was reviewed, and its conservation role and management will be considered as part of a One Plan Approach to leopard conservation.

The preliminary SDM model revealed unsuitable and likely areas for leopard occurrence and suggested 30 leopard populations to be considered in the PVA analysis. A plan was developed to improve the presence database, run a final model to identify populations and areas for potential connectivity, and use that information to develop the Vortex PVA model. This model will be used to explore baseline viability projections, sensitivity testing, and potential alternative management scenarios for the Javan leopard meta-population.

Model results will inform a multi-stakeholder PVA/PHVA workshop in Indonesia in early 2018 in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Javan leopard NGO and ex situ conservation partners, and the IUCN Cat Specialist Group. Participants will use these quantitative analyses for making management decisions within the framework of the Javan Leopard Conservation Strategy and Action Plan.



K. Traylor-Holzer