

CBSG UPDATE



22 August 2006

Member Information

A new issue of our newsletter, the *CBSG News* Vol. 17 No. 2 has been published, and was mailed to all of our members at the end of July. The newsletter is also available as a color PDF on our website at www.cbsg.org/news/archive.scd. If you are a member but have not received a paper copy of this newsletter by September, please contact us at members@cbsg.org with your correct address.

Our 2005 Annual Report will be available on our website in early September. If you would like a paper copy of the report, please contact our office at members@cbsg.org.

Recent Publications

The report from the African Primate Reintroduction Meeting held at Apenheul Primate Park in Appeldoorn, the Netherlands is now available on the CBSG website at: <http://www.cbsg.org/reports/other.scd>

The report from the Colorado Greater Sage Grouse Statewide Conservation Planning Workshop will be available on the CBSG website in September at: <http://www.cbsg.org/reports/other.scd>



Recent Workshops

Oribi PHVA

The oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*) is a highly specialized antelope inhabiting African temperate grasslands. In South Africa, its numbers have declined sharply in recent years, with more than 25% of the population having disappeared since 1981. The main cause of decline is habitat loss due to agriculture or conversion of grassland to livestock pastures. In light of this situation, CBSG Southern Africa facilitated a PHVA for South Africa's oribi on 19-22 June 2006.

Thirty-five participants representing many stakeholder groups committed to establishing an oribi conservation area network to ensure persistence of the species, help build capacity for conservation authorities, work with provincial biodiversity authorities to minimize the negative impacts of human settlement in important oribi areas, conduct a nationwide baseline oribi census, increase patrols to address illegal hunting, create incentives for landowners to conserve oribi, and monitor oribi populations over the next year.

Cycad PHVA

CBSG Southern Africa facilitated a PHVA on Albany cycads (*Encephalartos latifrons*) on 17-21 July 2006. The biology of this plant species presented numerous challenges to the participants who came together to develop sound conservation strategies. Cycads, whose close relatives shared the planet with dinosaurs and the world's first mammals, can probably live up to 1,000 years, and may reproduce only once in 50 years! Illegal collecting for the botanical trade is the major threat to the species. A key discussion focused on the ways in



which local farmers – who own much of the land on which the last 40 - 60 specimens of this species are found – can work collaboratively with provincial and national authorities to propagate seedlings more effectively. CBSG's Phil Miller helped facilitate this PHVA workshop, working closely with workshop leader Yolán Friedmann, CBSG Southern Africa Regional Network Convener, and her colleagues Brenda Daly, Kerry Morrison, and Nick King.

Hellbender PHVA

At the request of the Saint Louis Zoo's Wildcare Institute, CBSG facilitated a PHVA for the Ozark (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*) and Eastern hellbender (*C.a. alleganiensis*) on 7-10 August 2006. The hellbender is a giant, long-lived salamander native to shallow mountain streams of the eastern U.S. Once common, hellbender populations in some areas have declined by 77% since the 1970s, likely due to a combination of factors such as declining water quality, siltation from human activities, and direct



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collection and persecution. Chytrid fungus has recently been observed in parts of the species' range. Few young hellbenders are now found, leaving the population composed primarily of adults. A CBSG team consisting of Onnie Byers, Kevin Zippel, Kathy Traylor-Holzer, and David Reed (University of Mississippi) worked with about 30 workshop participants to explore threats to hellbender populations and develop management actions aimed at understanding and halting this precipitous decline. *Ex situ* populations also were discussed as a management option to help support wild populations.



Upcoming Meetings

CBSG Annual Meeting

The 2006 CBSG Annual Meeting is scheduled for 25-26 August in Halle, Germany. Working groups are currently planned on the following topics:

- Amphibian crisis response planning
- Conservation planning for CBSG Europe
- Establishment of global species management programs
- WAZA initiative to engage poorly maintained zoos
- Integrated, seamless conservation
- SIS and the zoo and aquarium community
- Climate change and species evaluation/modeling
- Field project prioritization

Reports from working groups will be published in the next issue of the *CBSG News*, which should reach members in December or January.

The meeting agenda and other information can be found on the annual meeting website:

<http://www.cbsg.waza2006.org/programm.php>

The Joint International Symposium of the 12th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine and the 21st Century COE Program of Gifu University, Japan

Phil Miller has been invited to give a presentation on current issues in conservation at this international Symposium in September in Gifu. The invitation comes in part from Akira Murayama and her colleagues from our CBSG Japan Regional Network. Phil will be talking with CBSG Japan representatives about the continued evolution of this network and how the global CBSG community can assist. Phil will also participate in an event on the continued reintroduction program for the Oriental white stork in Toyooka.

Kihansi Spray Toad PHVA

The Kihansi spray toad is endemic to the spray area of the Kihansi waterfall, giving it a range of approximately two hectares – one of the smallest geographic ranges of any vertebrate species in the world. These toads have nearly lost their entire habitat due to the construction of a dam, which now provides 25% of the country's power supply. A new, elaborate sprinkler system has been installed to simulate the spray from Kihansi falls, which provided some habitat for the toads, and their population has rebounded to 20,000 animals.



Recently, chytrid fungus has recently been found in the wild population of Kihansi spray toads. The wild population has declined and is now nearly extinct, though small captive breeding colonies exist in the United States. CBSG's Bob Lacy, Onnie Byers and Kevin Zippel will conduct a PHVA on the Kihansi spray toad on 9-11 October 2006, with hopes of finding conservation strategies to preserve the remaining toads.

Mexican Primates CAMP & Mexican Spider Monkey PHVA

On 16-20 October 2006, CBSG México will conduct a Mexican Primate CAMP and Mexican Howler Monkey PHVA. The three primate species (*Ateles geoffroyi vellerosus*, *Ateles geoffroyi yucatanensis*, *Allouata pigra* and *Allouata palliata mexicana*) that inhabit México are considered endangered and have lost from 60 - 85% of their original habitat. *Allouata palliata mexicana* has a projected decline of 73% - 84% in population size over the next 30 years.

The main threats faced by these species are habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, hunting, and illegal pet trade. Amy Camacho, Luis Carrillo and Juan Cornejo from CBSG México and Sanjay Molur from CBSG South Asia will design and conduct these workshops.

Butler's Garter Snake Conservation Review, Wisconsin, USA

Phil Miller has recently contracted with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to review the process used to determine a minimum number of sites to "protect" Butler's garter snake in its range in Wisconsin. The conservation program is currently highly contentious in the state, with many governmental authorities questioning the methodologies used to determine conditions for viability. This initial review may lead to a more formal PVA or PHVA for the species at a later date, to be conducted by CBSG.



Upcoming Amphibian Conservation Activities

Costa Rican Amphibian Strategy Workshop

From 29 September -1 October 2006, Kevin Zippel will assist Yolanda Matamoros and CBSG Mesoamerica in this workshop, in which the participants will generate a recovery plan for Costa Rican amphibians.

Colombian Amphibian Management

On 24-29 October 2006, CBSG Amphibian Program Officer Kevin Zippel will assist the Cali Zoo staff in leading a workshop modeled after the AZA Amphibian Biology and Management Course, to teach amphibian husbandry skills in Colombia.



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