

CBSG UPDATE



December 2006

Member Information

CBSG Website

CBSG's website is experiencing some technical difficulties and cannot be updated at this time. If you would like to request a copy of a CBSG report, a current schedule, or other documents that may not be available on the website, please email us at office@cbsg.org. We hope to have the website functioning again soon and we appreciate your patience.

Recent Publications

The final report from the Lion Tamarin PHVA III workshop held in June 2005 is now available. To request an electronic copy (7MB) or purchase a hard copy (\$35.00), please email the CBSG office at office@cbsg.org.



Recent Meetings

International Conference on Giant Pandas

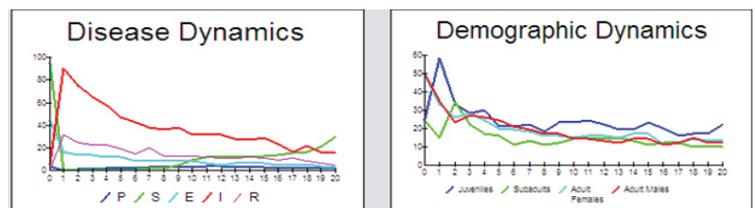
Participants from 10 countries attended the International Conference of Research and Breeding Techniques for Giant Pandas on 13-16 November in Chiangmai, Thailand. This annual conference provides a forum for the dissemination of current developments in giant panda husbandry, nutrition, veterinary care, and other aspects of *ex situ* conservation. CBSG Strategic Associate Jon Ballou from the National Zoological Park led participants from panda-holding institutions through a population management overview and studbook update with Xie Zhong, International Studbook keeper from the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens. The CBSG team then completed the population analysis using current studbook data representing 221 living animals held in 38 institutions. Kathy Traylor-Holzer facilitated the genetic management masterplanning session and development of general and specific breeding recommendations for the global captive panda population.



Metamodeling Meeting



Phil Miller, Bob Lacy and Onnie Byers participated in a meeting of CBSG's evolving Biocomplexity Network, generously hosted by the Brookfield Zoo in suburban Chicago, IL. The meeting was designed to bring old and new friends and colleagues together to expand the dynamic research network around the issue of metamodeling – the practice of physically linking independent simulation models of wildlife population processes such as disease epidemiology and animal movement, with more traditional models of wildlife population viability – and its use in practical conservation decision-making. Exciting new collaborative opportunities were identified, and a project timeline through mid-2008 was created to guide the development of these new techniques.



South China Tiger Technical Meeting

With only 67 tigers in captivity and no viable wild population, the South China tiger is among the most endangered mammals on the planet. Since 1995 CBSG has provided technical expertise to the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens (CAZG) to assist in the management of this captive population. In November Kathy Traylor-Holzer attended the 12th annual meeting of the South China Tiger Conservation Coordination Committee in Suzhou, China to present historical trends in the captive population and provide demographic and genetic analyses to guide the committee in development of its 2007 breeding plan.



BASC Meeting

Onnie Byers participated in a meeting of the IUCN/SSC Biodiversity Assessments Subcommittee (BASC), which oversees and guides the work of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) on biodiversity assessments. This includes responsibility for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and advising on the functioning of the Species Information Service (SIS). As a member of the BASC, Onnie's particular responsibility is to help build stronger links between CBSG and the IUCN/SSC Red Listing and biodiversity assessment processes. The big news for CBSG is that, under the excellent leadership of project manager Jim Ragle, significant progress is being made on the development of SIS. SIS will be a database on species information, including information on wild populations, habitat, threats, use/trade, range of distribution and occurrence, life history, Red List assessment, conservation actions, ecosystem service, and how species contribute to human livelihoods. SIS will support and improve the delivery of accurate, current, comprehensive species-based biodiversity data from the expert data providers to organizations that need such data to guide their decisions. Components of CBSG's CAMP database and of our processes will be incorporated into the beta version of SIS which is expected to be available in late 2007.



Upcoming Meetings

Chilean Patagonian Conure PHVA

CBSG Mexico will conduct a PHVA on the Chilean Patagonian conure in late January 2007. This species is native to the semi-arid shrubland of Central Chile, and only inhabits the Andean slopes between 600 and 1400 meters of elevation. Populations of these conures are highly fragmented, and the total population is estimated at fewer than 3,000 birds. Threats to the species include loss of habitat due to human activities, the illegal bird trade and hunting. This will be the first PHVA conducted on an endemic Chilean species.



Colorado Prairie Dog Conservation Planning

Through Phil Miller's recent projects on conservation planning for Gunnison's and Greater Sage Grouse in Colorado, CBSG has developed a productive relationship with a wide variety of stakeholder groups in the state – from the



Colorado Division of Wildlife to the state petroleum producers to the private ranching community. This relationship will be renewed in late February when Phil begins a planning process for Colorado's two species of threatened prairie dogs: Gunnison's (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) and white-tailed (*C. leucurus*). Conservation of these two species is the subject of intense debate among the various stakeholder interests in the state, so the long-term planning process – culminating in a PHVA workshop in June for the two species – will be a vital step towards bringing these different groups together in a more productive dialogue.

Hoolock Gibbon Training Workshops

Following up on the successful 2005 PHVA for the Western Hoolock Gibbon, Sally Walker of CBSG South Asia and Zoo Outreach Organisation, and local NGO collaborators in Assam, India are conducting six educator training workshops for participants from North East India and Bangladesh. A comprehensive training manual called "Helping Hoolocks Hang On" has been compiled based on the very successful Teachers for Tigers training manual produced by the Wildlife Conservation Society. It is described as a manual to make "every teacher a conservationist and every conservationist a teacher". The manual contains games, activities and brain-breaking exercises, two of which were taken directly from the CBSG CAMP and PHVA processes. The PHVA and all of the training workshops are funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Recent and Upcoming Amphibian Ark Activities

Ecuador Amphibian Husbandry Workshop

CBSG/WAZA Amphibian Program Officer Kevin Zippel traveled to Colombia in December 2006 to help the Coloma lab lead a training workshop similar to the AZA Amphibian Biology and Management course.



Brookfield Zoo Amphibian Planning Session

A meeting was held at the Brookfield Zoo in December 2006 to help create short and long term plans for the Chicago Zoological Society's amphibian conservation strategies.

Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation

Kevin Zippel will attend this conference in Houston Texas to speak about the Amphibian Ark and the role of the *ex situ* community in amphibian conservation. The meeting will be held in late January 2007.

Colombian Amphibian Biology & Management Workshop

CBSG will provide expertise at a meeting in Cali, Colombia in late February 2007 to help the Cali Zoo staff lead a workshop similar to the AZA Amphibian Biology and Management course.

