

CBSG UPDATE

To help keep you better informed of our activities, we will now be sending regular updates via email in addition to our biannual newsletter. These updates will include member information, highlights from recent CBSG workshops, announcements of new publications, and upcoming activities and conservation efforts worldwide.

Member Information

- **CBSG News**

If you have not yet received our winter edition of the CBSG News (Vol. 17 #1), please contact us at members@cbsg.org with your correct mailing address.

- **2006 CBSG Annual Meeting**

The CBSG Annual Meeting will be held 24-27 August in Halle, Germany and will be hosted by Leipzig Zoo. A major focus of this year's meeting will be the global amphibian extinction crisis but there will be other interesting working groups as well. Click on this link to view the tentative program and to register: <http://www.cbsg.waza2006.org>. Please remember that the deadline for early registration is 30 June. We look forward to seeing you in Halle.

- **New Program Officer at CBSG**

We welcome Dr. Kevin Zippel to his new full-time position as Amphibian Program Officer. Kevin is managing the activities of the CBSG/WAZA Amphibian Initiative. Information on CBSG and WAZA's work to coordinate the *ex situ* community's response to the amphibian crisis, as well as Kevin's bio, can be found on our website at: <http://www.cbsg.org/amphibian.scd>

Recent Publications

The following reports will be available for free download on our website (www.cbsg.org) by the end of June. Hard copies are available from the CBSG office for US \$35.

- Alabama Beach Mouse PVA III
- American Burying Beetle PHVA
- CBSG/WAZA Amphibian Ex-situ Conservation Planning Workshop
- Galapagos Penguin PHVA

Recent CBSG Workshops

- **Assateague Horse**

CBSG facilitated a PHVA workshop on Assateague horses in Berlin, Maryland, US on 29-31 March 2006.



This population of feral horses has been present on Assateague Island since the 1600s and has cultural significance, but may have a negative impact on other species and ecological processes of the island. Unlike most PHVAs, the management goal is to reduce and limit population size; however, CBSG's facilitation and modeling tools were directly applicable to developing a population management strategy based on broad stakeholder interests. Our thanks go to CBSG Members Jon Ballou and Aurelio Malo for their modeling efforts with this workshop.

- **Urban Ecology**

CBSG Senior Program Officer Phil Miller presented a summary of experiences from CBSG's participation in the Biocomplexity Network at a meeting entitled "A Workshop to Develop a Strategy for Advancing the Science of Urban Ecology" in Duluth, Minnesota held 18-20 May. The gathering was designed to promote discussion among natural and social scientists, in the context of stimulating a truly interdisciplinary approach to the study of urbanizing ecosystems.

- **Colorado Greater Sage Grouse**

CBSG facilitated the Colorado Greater Sage Grouse Statewide Conservation Planning Workshop in Steamboat Springs, Colorado on 7-12 May. A recent study in Wyoming suggests that oil and/or natural gas well development may have significant negative impacts on survival and reproduction rates of nearby populations of Greater Sage Grouse. Our PVA models suggest that these demographic effects may put a given population at a much higher risk of population decline or extinction. The analyses stimulated lively discussions on what we know about the nature of such development, and specifically how birds are affected. Several CBSG members served as working group facilitators, including Luis Carrillo from CBSG Mexico, Rebecca Seal Soileau, and Doug Armstrong and Danny Morris of Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.



- **African Primate Reintroduction**

CBSG facilitated a meeting for members of the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) to consider the potential reintroduction plans of these African primate sanctuaries. Animals continue to flow into the sanctuaries at an alarming rate and sanctuary managers are considering all options, including restoration of wild populations, protection of wild spaces, and promotion of conservation awareness and environmental education, in an effort to protect these flagship species from extinction. The workshop, held on 20-22 April and hosted by Apenheul Primate Park in the Netherlands, brought together 44 experts from 19 countries to collect and assess the latest biological, ecological, virological and technical knowledge and to produce agreed-upon strategies for future primate reintroduction efforts. The participants identified a set of proposed solutions to address the key issues facing the reintroduction of African primates from PASA sanctuaries. The workshop was organized with the help of Norm Rosen, CBSG's Great Ape Coordinator and facilitation assistance was provided by Frands Carlsen of CBSG Europe.

- **Alabama Beach Mouse**



CBSG recently completed the third Population Viability Analysis (PVA) of the Alabama beach mouse, an endangered subspecies of oldfield mice that inhabits the coastal dune habitats of the southeastern US. Building upon our 2004 PHVA and 2005 PVA, this latest risk assessment evaluated the importance of habitat corridors and privately-owned habitat patches as well as the potential benefits of translocation efforts to re-establish populations of mice decimated by hurricanes. Many thanks to CBSG member David Reed from the University of Mississippi for being the primary modeler for this project.

Recent Amphibian Conservation Activities

- **Amphibian Husbandry Training in Mexico**

Kevin Zippel attended an Amphibian Biology and Management Course held at Africam Safari in Puebla, Mexico on 22-26 May. He was the instructor in several lectures and workshops, and has been continuing to answer questions from interested students since his return.

- **Amphibian Specialist Group Meeting**

CBSG Chairman Bob Lacy and Kevin Zippel attended a meeting with the leaders of the Amphibian Specialist Group in Washington, DC from 1-2 June. This meeting followed up on the CBSG/WAZA Amphibian *Ex Situ* Conservation Planning Workshop held in February 2006, and results and recommendations from the earlier meeting were presented to the Amphibian Specialist Group for their input and consideration.



Upcoming CBSG Workshops

- **Oribi**

On 19-22 June, CBSG Southern Africa will conduct a PHVA on oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*), a small antelope native to Central and Southern Africa. This PHVA will be conducted by Yolana Friedmann and the CBSG Southern Africa network. Oribi are threatened by degradation and loss of habitat and human hunting, and are classified as Endangered in South Africa's Red Data Book for Mammals (2004).



- **Cycad**

On 17-21 July, CBSG Southern Africa will conduct a PHVA on cycads, an ancient group of plants that exists in tropical and subtropical regions. Cycad plants have male and female forms and a slow growth rate, making them vulnerable to extinction. The most serious threat facing most cycads is collection for the horticultural trade. Senior Program Officer Phil Miller will work closely with CBSG Southern Africa Regional Network Convener Yolana Friedmann and her colleagues to design and implement the meeting.

- **Hellbender**

A PHVA on hellbenders (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) will be conducted 7-10 August in St. Louis, Missouri, US. These giant salamanders are native to the Ozark Mountains in the Eastern United States, and are threatened by chytrid fungus and habitat loss. CBSG Executive Director Onnie Byers, Program Officers Kathy Traylor-Holzer and Kevin Zippel, and CBSG Member David Reed will be conducting this meeting.