

CBSG UPDATE

October 2006

Member Information

Recent Publications

The report from the Tsushima Leopard Cat PHVA held 9-11 January 2006 is now available on the CBSG website. The report is in Japanese, an English translation will be available soon.

Recent Meetings

CBSG Annual Meeting

Many thanks to Leipzig Zoo for hosting the exciting and productive 2006 CBSG Annual Meeting. The focus of this year's meeting was the amphibian extinction crisis. A highlight was the symposium consisting of eleven speakers from seven different countries who shared their work on behalf of amphibian conservation. The amphibian working group that followed developed the Amphibian Ark concept (see below) which has been embraced by WAZA and regional zoo associations and is already helping to guide ex situ amphibian conservation efforts worldwide.



The Annual Meeting's other plenary session presentations were outstanding, and the working group topics, including discussions of the use of climate change data in risk assessment, the establishment of global species management programs, and conservation planning for CBSG Europe, were significant and timely. The CBSG workshop process worked well to help each group produce a meaningful product. The working group reports will be published in the next issue of CBSG News. The three resolutions we put forward to WAZA, on Climate Change, Amphibian Crisis Response, and Substandard Zoos, were accepted by WAZA Council and adopted by its membership at the WAZA Conference in Leipzig immediately following our meeting.



The success of CBSG's Annual Meetings is due entirely to the active, enthusiastic participation of our members. The sharing of ideas that takes place at these meetings is energizing and we hope that it results in positive conservation action. So, mark your calendars! The Budapest Zoo is hosting the 2007 CBSG Annual Meeting from 24-26 August. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mexican Primates CAMP & Spider Monkey PHVA

CBSG Mexico conducted two workshops in October, with assistance from CBSG Southeast Asia's Sanjay Molur. The first was a CAMP workshop to assess the status of four Mexican primate species. Three species; the Yucatan spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi yucatanensis*), the black howler monkey (*Alouatta pigra*), and the mantled howler monkey (*Alouatta palliata mexicana*) were classified as Vulnerable, due to threats from hunting, habitat loss and degradation and diseases.

Immediately following the CAMP workshop, a PHVA on mantled howler monkeys was held to address the threats to that species. The 25 participants considered environmental policy, education, habitat management, and the species biology in developing specific recommendations for the conservation of the species.

CBSG Regional Modeller Training Workshop

Late October marked a momentous occasion – 15 population modellers representing CBSG’s eight Regional Networks, and one from the ARAZPA office, joined 4 CBSG instructors for an intensive seven-day training workshop hosted by Africam Safari in Puebla, Mexico. Participants worked in regional teams to develop and present their own species models using Vortex, practicing the various roles that CBSG modellers play during the PHVA workshop process. Although exhausting, this week-long interactive experience allowed participants representing 13 countries to share their knowledge and combined workshop experiences, building a supportive network of CBSG modellers that will benefit future modeling efforts. A workplan for future training and workshop mentoring opportunities was developed for each regional modeler, moving CBSG significantly toward our shared goal of developing strong, independent CBSG teams in each region.



Conservation Meetings in Japan

Phil Miller traveled to central Japan in late September to give a series of presentations on the importance of community involvement in stakeholder-based conservation workshop processes. First on the itinerary was the city of Toyooka, where The Hyogo Prefectural Homeland for the Oriental White Stork hosted a public symposium on conservation. This symposium was followed by the release of three storks, with nearly 3000 members from the



town, the Japanese scientific community, and the press in attendance. Phil then traveled to Gifu where he gave a presentation and associated workshop on participatory approaches to species conservation. This presentation was part of a symposium organized during the Annual Conference of the Japanese Zoo and Wildlife Medicine Association. Ms. Akira Murayama of CBSG Japan was also involved in these events, as was CBSG Japan Network Convener Mr. Horishi Hori.

Upcoming Meetings

Metamodelling Meeting

CBSG has organized a workshop to take the next step in our continuing work in the field of Biocomplexity. About 20 experts in the fields of wildlife disease, spatial analysis, simulation modeling, and transdisciplinary research will gather 16 – 18 November at The Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, Illinois to evaluate our “metamodeling” project efforts to date, and to discuss ways in which we can move forward in thinking about how to integrate diverse information sets into our simulation modeling tools and other decision-support processes.

Ex Situ Meetings in China

Over the past decade CBSG has been involved in the development of cooperative ex situ management programs for South China tigers and giant pandas in China. Continuing with these efforts, CBSG will be facilitating the genetic management session (similar to a captive masterplanning session) at the International Conference on Research and Breeding Techniques for Giant Pandas on 13-16 November in Chiangmai, Thailand. In late November CBSG will be assisting the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens (CAZG) at their annual South China tiger technical meeting in Suzhou, China to evaluate the ex situ population status, revisit population goals, and develop breeding and management recommendations for the coming year.

Amphibian Conservation Activities

Amphibian ARK

In response to the in-situ threats facing amphibian species worldwide, and calls to action from the IUCN Global Amphibian Assessment, The Amphibian Conservation Action Plan and other documents, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), and the IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) have jointly formed the Amphibian Ark (www.AmphibianArk.org), to guide short-term ex situ management to help ensure long-term survival in nature of amphibian taxa for which adequate protection in the wild is not currently possible.



The AArk will facilitate coordination of ex situ programs implemented by partners around the world, with the first emphasis on programs within the range countries of the species, and with a constant attention to our obligation to couple ex situ conservation measures with necessary efforts to protect or restore species in their natural habitats. AArk will lead a globally coordinated, zoo-based awareness and capital campaign, called Year of the Frog, in 2008 to help zoos raise the funds to support rapidly developing programs for ex situ rescue efforts, in situ conservation, research, and communication about the amphibian extinction crisis.

The outcome of AArk will be saving hundreds of species from imminent extinction so that effective long-term measures to restore and protect their populations in the wild can be devised, developing capacity globally to provide amphibian species with care and protection when needed, forming effective partnerships between ex situ and in situ components of conservation, and establishing a model framework for responding to future species conservation crises.

Postponed

The Kihansi Spray toad PHVA and Hainan Gibbon PHVA have been postponed to allow time for additional planning.

