

CBSG UPDATE



April 2008

Member Updates

Convenor of CBSG Brasil wins Golden Ark Award

Pati Medici, convenor of the CBSG Brasil Network and Chair of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group received the 2008 Golden Ark Award—an international conservation award for her contributions to lowland tapir research and conservation in Brazil, as well as for her work as Chair of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group. More information about Pati's achievement can be found in the most recent CBSG News, which is available on our [website](#). Congratulations Pati!



2008 CBSG Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will be held in Adelaide, Australia on 16-19 October. For more details, please visit the [Annual Meeting website](#) (a link is also provided on the CBSG website). We hope to see you all in Adelaide!

CBSG Member Survey

Thanks to everyone who completed the CBSG member survey! The response rate was close to 40%, and we were very pleased with the overall message of support we received from our members. On average, you told us you are satisfied with what we do and how you are able to contribute to CBSG. Some responses indicate that we could do better and we will continue to try to meet the needs of all our members. The results of the survey have been shared with the CBSG Steering Committee, and will be used to inform discussions about CBSG's future.



Recent Workshops

Population Management Training in Singapore

On 27-29 March CBSG and CBSG Europe staff conducted a three-day training course in studbooks and population management at the Singapore Zoo. Topics included an overview of *ex situ* population management, followed by presentations and hands-on practice with SPARKS outlining studbook data entry, tools for data validation, and summary reports. Data analysis, genetic management, population planning, and the development of population goals were discussed through demonstrations and hands-on training using PM2000.



Twenty-two participants from zoos in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia attended the course, several of whom are studbook keepers, species coordinators or country representatives for designated SEAZA breeding programs. This course was held in concert with Singapore's ongoing zoo biology training for its Zoo and Night Safari staff.

Arboreal Plants of Costa Rica Workshop

On 27-28 March 2008, CBSG Mesoamerica staff facilitated a meeting to prioritize conservation efforts for 173 species of trees and shrubs native to the Western region of Costa Rica's Central Valley. This workshop was part of a local effort to reforest areas with native species which are locally scarce. The priority species will be maintained in greenhouses and supplied to public and private entities which are carrying out reforestation programs. The 31 participants requested another workshop in the future, which will focus on establishing a conservation strategy for the high-priority species. CBSG Mesoamerica will organize and facilitate this second workshop, and details will be available in future CBSG Updates.



Upcoming Workshops

Population Management Training in Japan



JAPANESE
ASSOCIATION OF
ZOOS AND
AQUARIUMS

CBSG and ISIS staff will travel to Japan this spring to provide studbook and *ex situ* population management training in cooperation with the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA) and CBSG Japan. Two three-day training courses, one in Osaka in late May and one in Tokyo in early June, will provide seminars and hands-on training for zoo staff, studbook keepers and other individuals involved in *ex situ* animal management.

Fourth International Tapir Symposium

The IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) organized PHVA Workshops for all four tapir species (Malayan Tapir PHVA Workshop 2003, Mountain Tapir PHVA Workshop 2004, Baird's Tapir PHVA Workshop 2005, and Lowland Tapir PHVA Workshop 2007) to create a new Tapir Action Plan that is now available online on the TSG website in all appropriate languages. The IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) has been assisting the TSG in this process. This successful partnership will continue during the Fourth International Tapir Symposium to be held in Playa del Carmen, Cancun, Mexico, from April 26 to May 1st, 2008, during which Patricia Medici and Anders Gonçalves da Silva from CBSG Brasil and Bengt Holst of CBSG Europe will provide guidance for the following activities:

- Review the Tapir Action Plan and necessary changes, updates and additions will be made for each tapir species.
- Set short-term goals for the Tapir Specialist Group and create a list of priority actions to guide & drive the work of the TSG over the next three years.
- Discuss the utility of tapir population modeling as well as provide the opportunity for participants to familiarize themselves with Vortex. This session will encourage and help tapir researchers better utilize the modeling tools currently available.



Metamodeling Project Update

We continue to make progress on our exciting metamodeling initiative. In this project, we are designing software packages that not only work by themselves to provide valuable information to wildlife managers on such topics as disease risk or animal movement patterns, but can also talk to each other to create a more informative simulation of threats to wildlife populations and their impact on long-term viability. We are very close to finishing OUTBREAK 1.0, our disease epidemiology simulation, which will be able to communicate with the VORTEX software for conducting population viability analysis. This prototype metamodel will be the centerpiece of a workshop scheduled for August in South Africa on the predicted impacts of bovine tuberculosis on the lions of Kruger National Park. In addition, we are moving forward on the animal movement simulation known as SPATIAL, using data on ungulate populations in Canada's Riding Mountain National Park as a case study. We will be discussing these and other projects during a small but intense meeting in Chicago this coming June. Stay tuned for more updates!

Tasmanian Devil PHVA

A Population and Habitat Viability Assessment for the Tasmanian Devil is scheduled for 3-6 July 2008. Look for more details on this workshop in our June Update.