

# CBSG UPDATE



June 2008

## Member Announcements

### Register Online for the CBSG Annual Meeting

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

### Searchable Reports Section of CBSG Website

We have revamped the reports section of the CBSG website, designed to make CBSG reports more accessible with a new searchable format. Many reports are available as PDF files, and can be downloaded free of charge.

### Princess Presents Top Nature Award to Pati Medici

Britain's Princess Anne presented one of the world's top environmental awards – the Whitley Award – to Patricia Medici, convenor of CBSG Brasil. This award recognizes her project in the Atlantic Forests of Brazil that uses lowland tapirs as ambassadors for grassroots nature conservation to capture interest and create support for active habitat conservation of benefit to many wildlife species. The award includes a Whitley Award project grant of US\$60,000. Congratulations Pati!



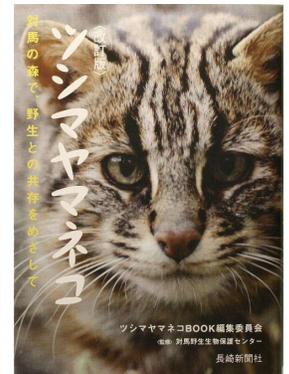
### Vortex Course in Europe

CBSG Europe is conducting the first Vortex training course in Europe. This course is for beginning Vortex modelers and will be held at Antwerp Zoo on 5-8 August 2008. Please contact Kristin Leus, CBSG Europe for more information.

[kristin@cbsgeurope.eu](mailto:kristin@cbsgeurope.eu)

### Tsushima Yamaneko: The Challenge to Co-exist with Wildlife in Tsushima

CBSG Japan's Akira Murayama is one of the editors of a new book describing 10 years of conservation efforts on behalf of the Tsushima leopard cat, including the CBSG Conservation Planning Workshop held in January 2006. As a result of the CBSG workshop, collaborations between different sectors, groups, and individuals have increased the effectiveness of the program remarkably.





## Recent Events

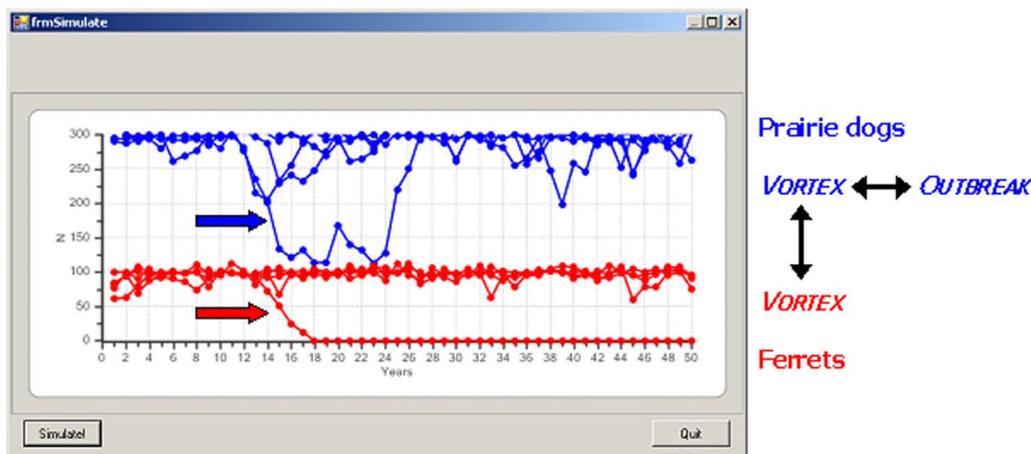
### Population Management Training in Japan

CBSG and ISIS staff recently traveled to Japan to conduct training courses in studbook and *ex situ* population management. Sponsored by the Japanese Association of Zoological Gardens and the Tokyo Zoological Parks Society and hosted by the Osaka Zoo and Ueno Zoo, each of these three-day training courses included hands-on instruction in SPARKS and PM2000 software programs as well as general principles in the development and management of *ex situ* populations for conservation. About 90 participants attended these courses, many of whom are recognized regional or international studbook keepers and/or species management committee members. A listserv has been established among course participants to promote further understanding, collaboration and application of these skills within Japan.



### Metamodeling Tools for Biocomplexity

After years of hard work, we are very pleased to announce the creation of our first functioning metamodel of wildlife population dynamics! A small group of metamodel developers met at the Brookfield Zoo in suburban Chicago, IL in mid-June to move another step forward in our research. Specifically, we focused on finalizing METAMODELMANAGER – our “communications hub” through which individual population models (such as VORTEX and our disease epidemiology simulation OUTBREAK) would pass data on reproductive and survival rates, disease state, etc. Once the MANAGER was functional, we tested the creation of a Meta-VORTEX, in which separate models of the black-footed ferret and its obligate prey, the prairie dog, were linked together. We were elated to see the two populations behaving as we intended: A reduction in prairie dog densities resulted in a similar decline in ferret population size almost immediately. We then built upon this success by trying to link our OUTBREAK disease model to the prairie dog VORTEX session. As can be seen in the Figure below, we were successful in creating this 3-component meta-model! In one iteration of the meta-model, a confirmed disease outbreak in prairie dogs (blue arrow) led to the simultaneous decline and ultimate extinction of the ferret population (red arrow).



We will bring you additional updates on this groundbreaking research as they develop!



## Upcoming Workshops

### Tasmanian Devil PHVA

In recent years the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) has experienced significant population declines across eastern Tasmania due to the devastating effects of an infectious cancer known as Devil Facial Tumor Disease. At the request of the Tasmanian Minister for Primary Industries and Water and with support from the Taronga Zoo, CBSG will conduct a Tasmanian Devil PHVA workshop on 3-6 July in Hobart, Tasmania. This PHVA specifically will address a strategy for the development of insurance populations of varying management levels to guard against species extinction and to provide future options for conservation of this unique species.



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### Green Macaw PHVA

In 2006 a CAMP for the parrot species of Costa Rica was held at Simón Bolívar Zoo, San José, Costa Rica. One of the recommendations of this workshop was to have a PHVA for the most threatened species, the green macaw (*Ara ambiguus*). Threats to the species include: habitat loss, disease, the pet trade, and accidental deaths caused by humans. This workshop will be organized by the Mesoamerican Psittacids Network and CBSG Mesoamerica, and will be held at La Selva Biological Station, Sarapiquí, Costa Rica in early September 2008. Participants from Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Colombia will attend, representing all of the range countries of the species. The funds for this workshop are provided by TACA Airlines, Organization for Tropical Studies, Centro Científico Tropical, and SeaWorld.



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### Brazilian Primates PVA

CBSG Brasil will collaborate with the Centre for the Protection of Brazilian Primates (CBP) to conduct a Population Viability Analysis workshop for three threatened species of primates from the north east of Brazil: *Alouatta ululata*; *Callicebus coimbrai* and *Cebus flavius*. The workshop will take place on 22-25 July in João Pessoa at CBP headquarters.



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