



**October 2008**

## **Member Announcements**

### **Tasmanian Devil PHVA Report**

The final report of the Tasmanian Devil PHVA, held 3-6 July 2008 is now available on the [CBSG website](#).



## **Recent Events**

### **2008 CBSG Annual Meeting**

This year's Annual Meeting was one of our most productive and the quality of every working group report was exceptional. But it wasn't all work. We shared fish and chips on the beach, enjoyed fine restaurants and lovely wines from the Adelaide Hills, and had a great time with our WAZA colleagues at the lovely Adelaide Zoo where we proudly presented Sally Walker with the Ulie Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation. Many thanks to Chris West and our hosts at Adelaide Zoo.

We are grateful to Paul Pearce Kelly for organizing a mini symposium on climate change again this year. The presentations by Barry Brook and Andy Lowe not only stunned us with their dire predictions but challenged us to respond urgently and aggressively as individuals and as a community. The working group that followed laid out specific actions that we now must commit ourselves to implementing. One of these recommendations asked that WAZA consider producing a resource manual to assist zoos and aquariums in responding to the threats posed by climate change. WAZA's Conservation and Sustainability Committee enthusiastically accepted this responsibility and the manual is already in the initial stages of production.

The Mass Collaboration Tools Working Group made a significant impact on the meeting with the majority of working groups identifying ways in which these tools could enhance their effectiveness. The group has kept in contact since we all left Adelaide and is currently researching a variety of platforms to determine how best to meet these needs.

The report from these and the other nine groups that convened in Adelaide will be published the in CBSG News in January.

This year's meeting was a tremendous success. We look forward to seeing you at the next CBSG Annual Meeting, 1-4 October 2009, in St. Louis, Missouri!



### **CBSG workshops succeed for wildlife!**

In August, CBSG led an action planning workshop at 1st National Congress on the Preservation of Aruban Wildlife. (See [www.wildaruba.org](http://www.wildaruba.org) for more information.) At the congress, the critical role of native bats in pollinating the key-stone cactus species on Aruba was highlighted, and the workshop recommended that public access to important roosting caves be restricted so as to minimize disturbance of the bat colonies. Within two weeks after the workshop, the national park authorities responded by restricting public access to protect the bats that are so vital to the Aruban ecosystem! We are confident that other recommendations of the workshop will also result in important actions for Aruba, such as the creation of an environmental management authority, establishment of a marine park to protect coral reefs, and promoting environmental education and more environmentally aware behaviors by the people and businesses of Aruba.

### **Green Macaw PHVA**

Populations of green macaws are found in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador. The Mesoamerican Psittacid Network asked CBSG Mesoamerica to conduct an evaluation of the population and habitat of the species throughout its range, and the CBSG Mesoamerica team led a PHVA for the species on 22-26 September 2008. Thirty-seven experts from nine countries attended the five-day workshop and analyzed the viability of seven subpopulations green macaws. The participants established a Conservation Strategy comprised of four themes: in situ conservation, necessary research, conservation education, and politics. Three Mexican experts in green macaws, and parrot experts from Cuba and Peru also participated to learn about the PHVA process and support the workshop with their experience. Finally, the participants gave conclusions and recommendations for each group and each green macaw range country. The final report of this workshop is being completed.



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## **Upcoming Workshop**

### **Chilean Conure PHVA**

CBSG Mexico will conduct a PHVA on the Chilean conure on 24-28 November 2008. 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.