

CBSG UPDATE



Member Announcements

April 2008

Ulysses S. Seal Award Nominations

CBSG Members are invited to nominate candidates for the Ulysses S Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation. Please remember to submit your nominations to [Onnie Byers](#) via email or post by 1 August 2009. To download the nomination form, [click here](#).

CBSG Annual Meeting

The 2009 CBSG Annual Meeting will be held 1-4 October in St. Louis, MO, USA. Details, working group topics, and online registration information will be available soon. We hope you will plan to join us in St. Louis!



Recent CBSG Meetings

Disease Risk Assessment for Lions in Kruger National Park

Tuberculosis is believed to have entered the wildlife population in South Africa's Kruger National Park in the 1950s from infected domestic cattle. Disease-based mortality has been documented in lions, raising concern among wildlife managers and veterinary health officials. At the invitation of South African National Parks veterinarians, and with the support and participation of Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo staff, CBSG led a Disease Risk Assessment Workshop on 16-20 March 2009. This was the first CBSG workshop to use a metamodel as the focal disease risk assessment tool, and integrated a model of lion population dynamics developed at the University of Minnesota with CBSG's *OUTBREAK* model to create a metamodel of disease dynamics in Kruger's lion population. Follow this link for more details: http://www.cbsg.org/cbsg/content/files/eUpdates/lion_tb_update.pdf



Jaguar PHVA

CBSG Mesoamerica conducted a PHVA workshop for jaguars in Costa Rica on 2-6 March, building in part upon previous jaguar workshops and management strategies, including the development of a regional corridor for jaguars throughout Mesoamerica. The workshop was sponsored by a local coffee grower, VOLCAFE, and was held at the Simon Bolivar Zoo in San Jose. The 50 participants included government representatives, researchers, university staff and students, NGOs, developers, environmental educators, veterinarians, zoo staff, potential funders, and others. Key recommendations included strategies for reducing human-jaguar conflicts in key corridor areas.



This PHVA provided another opportunity for the CBSG Mesoamerica modelers Jorge Rodriguez and Gustavo Gutierrez to expand their modeling expertise under mentorship from the CBSG main office. There are tentative plans for them to instruct a Vortex training course this summer at the University of Costa Rica for participants from Central and South America, solidifying their understanding of Vortex and increasing modeling expertise and CBSG awareness in the region.

CAZG Studbook Training

Based on our past collaborations, the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens (CAZG) approached CBSG for assistance in studbook training for CAZG studbook keepers. Jonathan Ballou from the Smithsonian National Zoo and Kathy Traylor-Holzer from CBSG worked with Xie Zhong from CAZG to conduct a four-day course for 31 current and new studbook keepers. Course material included discussion and practice sessions on SPARKS data entry, validation, analysis and reports, along with lectures on demography, genetics, and population management principles and tools. Advanced training in data analysis and population management for CAZG may be desirable in the future once the studbooks are fully in place.

Cheetah PHVA

CBSG Southern Africa and the CBSG main office worked with the Carnivore Conservation Group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) to conduct a PHVA for cheetahs in South Africa, as a precursor to the development of a national strategy for cheetahs. Sixteen participants (primarily researchers, NGOs and landowners) convened at the Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve on 17-21 April 2009 to discuss data and strategies for managing cheetahs in fenced reserves and on private lands. The results of the PHVA will help guide the national strategy workshop scheduled for mid-June. Development of preliminary cheetah models prior to the PHVA provided the opportunity for informal Vortex training for several EWT and zoo staff. Workshop support for all participants was generously provided by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and the De Beers Consolidated Mines.



Upcoming Meetings

Coordinating Marine Debris Clean-up Efforts in New Zealand

CBSG Australasia has been invited to facilitate the first step in a coordinated response to the prevention and clean-up of marine debris in New Zealand waters. The workshop will bring together, for the first time, an array of government and non-government organizations involved in this work to build a coalition for coordinated action.

Continuing Tasmanian Devil Conservation

Building on last year's conservation planning workshop for Tasmanian devils, the Australasian branch will be working with the Tasmanian Government to develop further a plan for the proposed insurance meta-population. CBSG has also been invited to play an ongoing role in this component of devil recovery, by providing regular, independent review of the insurance program.



© Roger Smith

Other Announcements and Meetings

GLOBIO Tools Presentation

CBSG-Brazil Facilitator Leandro Jerusalinsky attended the Workshop “Seminário de Apresentação da Ferramenta GLOBIO” (Seminar for the Presentation of GLOBIO Tools) at the Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro, on 24-26 March 2009. Over 50 participants from federal institutions, universities, departments of the Ministry of the Environment and participants from a Dutch environment evaluation agency (PBL) and from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) attended. Leandro participated in a round-table entitled “Modeling Experiences in Brazil” and gave a presentation entitled “Population Modeling using Vortex as a Tool for Species Conservation: Experiences in Brazil.”

CBSG Brasil Staff Changes

CBSG-Brazil Facilitator Patrícia Medici is now a member of the Steering Committee of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC). Also, Patrícia is now part of the Zoos & Aquariums Committing to Conservation (ZACC) Conference Steering Committee.

CBSG-Brazil Facilitator Leandro Jerusalinsky has recently been promoted director of the Centre for the Protection of Brazilian Primates (CPB, part of Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade – ICMBio from the Brazilian Environment Ministry).

Congratulations Leandro and Patricia!

Recent Publication

The Final Report from the Clouded Leopard and Small Felid Conservation Summit is now available on the CBSG website.

