CBSGUPDATE



Member Announcements

CBSG Annual Meeting 2010

The 2010 CBSG Annual Meeting was held in Cologne, Germany. A total of 92 people from 22 countries enthusiastically devoted three days to tackling a variety of issues of concern to the global conservation community. We were also pleased to present Gordon McGregor Reid, recently of the Chester Zoo with the 2010 Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation.

We thank Cologne Zoo Director Theo Pagel, Julia Sander, and the amazing Zoo staff and volunteers for hosting this year's meeting and helping to make it a great success.

Nine working groups produced a series of exciting recommendations that CBSG members will address in the coming year. Highlights include:

- Climate Change The group crafted a Resolution to WAZA, urging member zoos to increase the visibility of climate change issues in their education and communication programs, and devote resources to reduce their own carbon footprint throughout their activities.
- Assisted Colonization The group discussed the complex issue of assisted
 colonization of species sensitive to changes in habitat distribution brought about by climate change, and
 outlined a series of important questions that must be addressed in a structured decision-making framework for
 prioritization of species conservation need.
- Review of IUCN Technical Guidelines for Ex-Situ Population Management The group outlined the latest series
 of issues around the management of ex-situ populations, and proposed developing a more sophisticated decisionanalysis framework for prioritizing taxa for ex-situ management.
- Intensively Managed Populations (IMPs) The group defined the concept of intensive population management, and created a vision statement for IMPs and their role in species conservation.
- Species Conservation Planning Tools -- This working group was developed to expose participants to the draft IUCN/SSC Conservation Planning Tools Table and to provide training in web-based workshop preparation, the conservation planning software package known as Miradi, and structured decision-making methodologies.
- Species Conservation Congress Concept This group discussed the proposed IUCN Species Congress and how CBSG and its members could assist in the conceptualization, planning and implementation of this initiative.
- Education This group explored how educational efforts can be addressed and organized more systematically from the output of PHVA and other CBSG-facilitated conservation planning workshops.
- Animal Welfare This group recommended the proposal of a position statement on animal welfare to IUCN, and discussion of this proposal with WAZA's Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee to work in collaboration with Regional Zoo Associations.

We will keep you informed on continuing progress made in the coming months on these important efforts.







Recent CBSG Projects

Conservation Course, Brazil

Bob Lacy and Arnaud Desbiez taught a 5-day course entitled "Conservation Decision making" at the Brazilian university ESCAS in Nazare, Sao Paulo. They also gave a presentation at the IPE's Latin American Conservation Biology course where 10 students had received partial funding from the Chicago Zoological Society and the Chicago Board of Trade Endangered species fund. In between classes vortex models on species ranging from parrots to giant otters were discussed.



Kiwi Captive Management Strategy

Caroline Lees, CBSG Australasia, worked with the Kiwi Captive Program Coordinator, Suzy Barlow, in October to produce a

new strategy for captive management of kiwis in New Zealand. The draft strategy was supported by the Department of Conservation's Kiwi Recovery Group at its recent meeting and the completed strategy document will shortly be distributed for review by stakeholders.

North American Bumble Bee Workshop

Bumble bees are among the most important wild pollinators in both agricultural and natural ecosystems, yet there is growing evidence that some species are suffering precipitous population declines in North America. The decline in several species of formerly common North American bumble bees underscores the need to develop a comprehensive approach to arrest their declining biodiversity.

The Saint Louis Zoo hosted an IUCN North American Bumble Bee Species Conservation Strategy Workshop on 9-12 November. A broad coalition of stakeholders concerned with the survival of North American bumble bees participated, including relevant US government agencies, Biobest and Koppert (the two major commercial breeders of bumble bees for agricultural production),



Bombus pensylvanicus © Edward Spevak

bumble bee researchers and conservationists from the USA, Canada, Mexico, the UK, and Japan. Attendees shared information about global bumble bee status, threats, production and policy, and helped identify the issues of concern that may impact the success of bumble bee conservation, and provided general direction for bumble bee conservation in North America.

This meeting served as a first step in a long-term collaborative effort toward bumble bee conservation. Products from this meeting will be a North American Bumble Bee Species Conservation Strategy that can be used to guide future research, conservation actions, funding opportunities, and laws and regulations governing the transport of bumble bees and a proposal to establish an IUCN/SSC Bumble Bee Specialist Group that will help to implement and support this and other action plans. The meeting was organized by the St. Louis Zoo, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Dr. Sydney Cameron of the University of Illinois, and Dr. James Strange of the USDA-ARS Bee Biology and Systematics lab, facilitated by CBSG and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Saint Louis Zoo, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, The US Forest Service, and Pollinator Partnerships/North American Pollinator Protection Campaign.

Giant Panda Technical Meeting

On 11-14 November, the Chinese Committee of Breeding Techniques for Giant Pandas held its 2010 annual conference in Fuzhou, China. Since establishment of this committee and program in 2002, the global giant panda ex situ population has continued to thrive, with 319 individuals in 52 institutions representing 97.2% gene diversity. Population growth continues to be strong, and increased emphasis is now being placed on genetic management (focusing on the 'quality' vs 'quantity' of panda cubs produced), a strategy that is supported by the State Forestry Administration.

With financial support from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, CBSG attended the giant panda conference to assist with population data analysis in preparation for the 2011 breeding plan, and to facilitate a discussion of population goals and objectives. Many challenges were identified that impact ex situ conservation breeding and associated in situ conservation actions such as reintroduction. These include risk of disease, lack of knowledge about the in situ population status and major threats, lack of a systematic reintroduction plan, and insufficient public environmental consciousness in China. In turn, potential actions were discussed that could address these challenges – producing a list of ideas that can be further explored and implemented internally and/or in collaboration with international conservation partners.

Scimitar-horned Oryx

In October 2010, 20 participants from 13 organizations and 10 countries gathered in the Algerian port of Sidi Fredj, to progress a strategy for restoring scimitar-horned oryx to its ancestral range. The workshop, facilitated by CBSG Australasia, included representation from six of the countries that fall within the species' ancestral range: Algeria, Chad, Morocco, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia. Building on directions established at the first Scimitar-horned Oryx Conservation Planning Workshop, held in the United Arab Emirates in November 2009, the principal focus of this second meeting was the development of a tool for evaluating the conservation value of potential release sites. A report from this workshop will be available on the CBSG web site in early 2011.



Upcoming Meetings

Invasive Species Compendium

CBSG is involved in a new, and hopefully long-term, project to help to create a database of invasive species causing extinctions in the United States. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is involved in a global Invasive Species Compendium (ISC) in collaboration with 24 organizations in 10 countries and CABI. The ISC is a global repository of the scientific information on the invasive species that have the most impact in the world: impacts on the environment, the economy, animal health and human subsistence. This database will be freely available on the web in 2011. Invasive species, considered the number two cause of species extinction, impact biological diversity significantly. The USDA has invited CBSG to collaborate with them on the identification of invasive species that impact species considered to be endangered, threatened and candidate according to the United States Endangered Species Act. This information will allow the ISC to prioritize work so that data will be compiled as quickly as possible for invasive species that are drivers for species extinction in the United States.

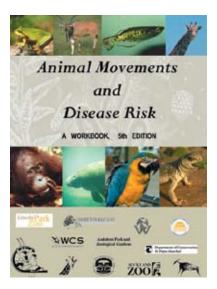
Japanese Amphibian Assessment

In January 2011, CBSG Japan and Amphibian Ark will work together to conduct an assessment workshop to evaluate and assess all IUCN Red List threatened and data deficient Japanese amphibian species. The focus of this workshop will be to assist with the selection of species that are most in need of various types of in situ or ex situ management.



Disease Risk Assessment Workbook Revision

Over the next twelve months CBSG, in collaboration with the Reintroduction, Wildlife Health, and Invasive Species Specialist Groups, will be leading an exciting new initiative aimed at advancing the way in which disease risks to wildlife are assessed and managed. The goal will be an integrated package of disease risk assessment (DRA) tools, based on the best available science and technology, serving the global conservation community. This resource will constitute a major revision of CBSG's Animal Movements and Disease Risk Workbook, last published in 2005. Beginning in 2012, this resource will provide the centerpiece for a global training program in best practice DRA methodology for wildlife conservation professionals. Scheduled for 4 - 7 April 2011, a stakeholder workshop will provide the principal engine for DRA tool development. The event will be hosted by CBSG's Australasian Network in partnership with Auckland Zoo's New Zealand Centre for Conservation Medicine (NZCCM). In addition to this workshop, an extensive program of remote collaboration units with a partner of the DRA resource is



tion using virtual tools is envisaged, culminating in completion of the DRA resource in December 2011.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from potential collaborators. All correspondence and requests for further information should be directed to Richard Jakob-Hoff at Richard@cbsgaustralasia.com

Northern Jaguar Recovery Planning

The jaguar (*Panthera onca*) was first listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969, and was subsequently designated as an endangered species outside the United States under the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). This protection was extended to the United States jaguar population in 1997. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southwest Region has the lead for recovery of this species for purposes of ESA compliance. The jaguar was addressed in the Service's 1990 Listed Cats of Texas and Arizona Recovery Plan (with Emphasis on the Ocelot), but this document only provided general recommendations to assess jaguar status in the U.S. and Mexico, and to protect and manage occupied and potential habitat in the U.S. No specific recovery criteria or actions were provided. As such, the Service is currently working to develop a recovery plan with specific recovery criteria and detailed actions for the jaguar with emphasis on the species in the northern portion of its range. To initiate and inform this effort, the Service has invited CBSG to facilitate two workshops for the northern jaguar: a Population Viability Analysis (PVA) in January 2011, to be followed by a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) in February 2011, with members of the Jaguar Recovery Team.

Brazilian Carnivore PVA Planning

CBSG Brazil will be meeting this month with colleagues from CENAP to discuss a potential PVA workshop for Brazilian Carnivores. The objective is to have a workshop to update and run scenarios of previously developed Vortex models for jaguars and maned wolves as well to develop new models for a few selected species.



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