

## Announcements

### Registration for 2013 CBSG Annual Meeting is Open!

The meeting will be hosted by Disney's Animal Kingdom in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA from 10-13 October. This year, we will focus on the response of the CBSG community to climate change, as well as aquarium conservation efforts and the One Plan approach to conservation planning. For more information and to register, visit <http://mydisneymeetings.com/cbsg-2013>. Be sure to do so before **31 May** to get the early-bird price!

### You're Invited to View the New CBSG Website!

Last week, we launched a brand new [www.cbsg.org](http://www.cbsg.org). The new site has a beautiful design, a report library searchable by species and region, and fresh, updated content. We invite you to visit the site and take a look around!

### Grey-Breasted Parakeet PVA News

A little over a year ago, CBSG Brasil conducted a population viability analysis (PVA) workshop for the Spix's macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) and the grey-breasted parakeet (*Pyrrhura griseipectus*), which was organized by ICMbio CEMAVE and funded by Fundo Vale. Results from the PVA model showed how nesting boxes could increase population growth and demonstrated how different levels of the pet trade could cause rapid extinction.

The coordinator of the grey-breasted parakeet project, Fabio Nunes, recently sent positive news of how the findings of the *Vortex* report were applied to raising funds for the project:

"The PVA report satisfied our sponsors as it clearly highlighted the importance of our work with the nest boxes. It also helped to identify information gaps and the need for investment in the collection of biology data for the species as well as environmental education campaigns. In this sense, we are glad to inform you that we have approved a project focusing on education and awareness campaigning using the PVA report, which also helped us to acquire a vehicle for the project and increase the field staff. Now we can continue to acquire data for a more precise PVA in the future."

This project provides an example of the way PVAs can contribute to fundraising, educational campaigns, and other project needs.

### CBSG eUpdate: May 2013

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Thanks to our translators, Jean-Luc Berthier and Elizabeth Townsend (French), and Celia Sánchez and Stefan Arriaga-Weiss (Spanish), for helping make this publication available in three languages.



#### In this Issue:

Announcements.....	1
Wattled Crane Conservation in South Africa.....	2
Brown Howler Monkey PVA.....	2
CBSG Mid-Year Meeting.....	3
Rotoroa Island Planning.....	3
IUCN Workshop on Criteria and Delineation of Key Biodiversity Areas.....	4
Getting Along with Elephants Educator Training.....	4
Vortex Population Modeling Courses.....	4
Upcoming Activities.....	5





## Recent Activities

### Wattled Crane Conservation in South Africa

On 5-6 March, the Wattled Crane Recovery Programme (WCRP) annual general meeting (AGM) was held in Johannesburg. The WCRP is a coalition of five partners (e-KwaZulu Natal Wildlife, Endangered Wildlife Trust, African Association of Zoos & Aquaria (PAAZAB), Johannesburg City Parks & Zoo, and e-KwaZulu Natal Crane Foundation) that formed as a result of the PHVA held in 2000 for wattled cranes (*Bugeranus carunculatus*) in South Africa. Twenty delegates, including CBSG Southern Africa, met to plan the way forward for the program. Participants focused on priorities for 2013/14 and discussed conservation translocation techniques for the species, agreeing on the goals of the reinforcement program of the KwaZulu Natal province wattled crane population as:

- To contribute to the increase in numbers of the wattled crane, a nationally Critically Endangered bird;
- To provide detailed information on movements, mortality, and the roles of the “floater flock” in the population;
- To investigate techniques for the successful conservation translocation of wattled cranes; and
- To enable conservation in South Africa through the building of the capacity and skills required.



Photo by Mike Jordan

Following the WCRP AGM, the PAAZAB conservation breeding program (APP) meeting for wattled cranes was held at Parys in the Free State. Johannesburg Zoo coordinates the APP, and the meeting brought together all participants in the breeding program to discuss detailed aspects of the management of the captive population, which currently numbers 44 birds.

### PVA for Brown Howlers in Argentina

In Argentina, the brown howler monkey (*Alouatta guariba ssp. clamitans*) has been re-classified from Endangered to Critically Endangered and included in the national list of the most threatened mammal species. This situation calls for urgent conservation action. The first Brown Howler Monkey Conservation Workshop Population Viability Analysis (PVA) was held in Iguazú, Misiones, Argentina from 25-28 March to establish conservation priorities for this species and its habitat in Argentina.



Photo by Phil Miller

During the meeting, 11 specialists, including primatologists, epidemiologists, and mosquito ecologists, examined the current knowledge and situation of brown howlers in Argentina and nearby areas of Brazil. Yellow fever, which decimated the howler population throughout its southern distribution during an outbreak in 2008-2009, was confirmed as the most urgent threat. A flow chart was constructed to represent the factors that influence the probability of occurrence of a yellow fever outbreak (e.g., virus virulence, mosquito species demographic dynamics) and the interactions between these factors, as well as the impact of an outbreak on brown howler population (e.g., population structure and connectivity, general health status, genetic resistance). This chart revealed the most important gaps in knowledge, and a list of prioritized objectives and actions was created. During the workshop both *Vortex* and *Outbreak* were used to examine multiple scenarios and create

hypotheses. When the workshop was finished, participants gathered in Puerto Iguazú to present results of the workshop to representatives of most governmental authorities involved in conservation in Misiones province and Argentina, as well as other NGOs, local stakeholders, local media, and others interested in conservation.



## CBSG Mid-year Meeting

Fifteen CBSG Strategic Committee members and six valued guests met in April at the WAZA offices in Gland, Switzerland for the CBSG Mid-year Meeting. When these conservation leaders were asked why they chose to dedicate this day to learning about, and helping to guide, the activities of CBSG, the responses included: to establish connections, learn more about CBSG, know the recent work of others in the group, discuss the One Plan approach, enhance linkages between WAZA and CBSG, and make progress on climate change issues. The group gave activity updates, and the Committee provided guidance in a number of areas including:

- **Regional Networks:** The Strategic Committee was asked for input on the possibility of establishing a CBSG East Asia and the consensus was enthusiastic support for further investigating the idea.
- **CBSG Branding:** The group was asked to consider, and in the end supported, the idea that rather than changing our name, we could create a tagline to be used in conjunction with the name CBSG. It was decided that a marketing professional and the IUCN Species Program communications officer will be asked to join the branding task force and that representatives from non-English regions will be asked to review the final version.
- **Species Conservation Planning:** The group showed considerable interest in our efforts to use both the AZE trigger species list, and information from the IUCN Red List regarding recommendations for conservation planning and/or *ex situ* breeding, to help guide conservation priorities.
- **2013 CBSG Annual Meeting:** After a review of the first draft agenda, suggestions were made, and accepted, to add a session recognizing the fifth anniversary of the Year of the Frog and examining where we are in terms of success in the conservation of these species, and to incorporate a horizon scanning exercise.

The majority of our time was dedicated to presentation and discussion of climate change-related initiatives being promoted by CBSG, EAZA, and AZA. In addition, WAZA is working on the development of materials to help their member institutions promote the Decade on Biodiversity. While there was a bit of tension regarding diversity of efforts, it was recognized that the climate crisis has rightly risen to a prominent position on our agendas, and the more work the community can do to address it, the better. The meeting closed with our traditional success stories session that never fails to inspire and motivate us to continue our fight for the survival of our planet and the species we share it with.

## Wildlife Restoration and Community Engagement on Rotoroa Island

Rotoroa Island, an 82 hectare (200 acre) island in New Zealand's Hauraki Gulf, is a conservation estate under the care of the Rotoroa Island Trust. The Trust is developing the island as a rich experience of heritage, conservation, and arts, with a strong education focus. An exciting and innovative partnership between the Trust and Auckland Zoo will see the wildlife management, education, and community engagement strengths of Auckland Zoo applied to the Trust's restoration of Rotoroa Island. This cutting-edge project will include the establishment of wildlife populations and will invite visitors to experience ecological restoration in action.

On 29-30 April, 20 participants from five organizations met on Rotoroa Island to discuss the opportunities and challenges of this project and to begin development of a five-year strategy for the zoo's involvement. Participants arrived by boat and were welcomed to the Island by Glen Tupuhi of Ngati Paoa, a Māori tribe of the Hauraki region.

Jonathan Wilcken, director of Auckland Zoo, invited CBSG and CBSG Australasia to design and facilitate the workshop. Participants worked intensively and enthusiastically to develop a long-term vision for the future of Rotoroa Island. The primary elements of this ideal future—wildlife management, visitor experience, education, cultural heritage, and arts—became the broad areas of work (work programs) that will provide the framework for the development of the five-year strategy. Participants then identified issues of concern regarding the island's development and established implementable goals for addressing those issues. Finally, the group produced a definition of success for each of the work programs most relevant to the Zoo-Trust partnership. The workshop provided all involved with the guidance they need to take the next step towards realization of their vision.



*Photo by Onnie Byers*

## IUCN Workshop on Criteria and Delineation of Key Biodiversity Areas

On 11-15 March the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) convened a workshop to discuss criteria and delineation issues for Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). CBSG staff was one of 40 participants who attended this international and interdisciplinary meeting held at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. This was the first of a series of technical workshops following from an initial framing workshop last June in Cambridge. Five draft criteria were developed and proposed to identify sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity, across all taxonomic groups and biomes. Issues relating to how these sites might be delineated were also discussed, as well as the documentation needed for assessment. This attempt by IUCN to standardize the identification of KBAs will include additional technical workshops to discuss thresholds, anticipated users of the criteria, and other related issues before the IUCN KBA process is finalized. KBAs can help CBSG members and colleagues to identify priority areas for conservation support by both the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation communities.



## Recent Training Activities

### Getting along with Elephants: HECx Educator Training

The USFWS-sponsored Human Elephant Coexistence (HECx) workshop Tamil Nadu series – Educator Skills Training was conducted at Krishnagiri from 11-13 April. The primary purpose of this training, which was organized by Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) and CBSG South Asia, was to reduce incidents leading to death or injury to both humans and elephants. Forty-five participants, including teachers, representatives from NGOs involved in education, self-help group leaders, and research students were given the tools and resources to confront and teach about Human Elephant Conflict and Human Elephant Coexistence (HECx). A teaching



guide developed by ZOO exclusively for the Tamil speaking participants was used throughout the training. The teaching techniques are varied in order to target different educational, economic, and social levels of the audience. These techniques include: evaluation tools; incorporating historical, cultural, and current matter through activities rather than lectures; a variety of intellectual skills taught through small working group activities; and philosophical and emotional approaches to bring about attitudinal and behavioral change through role playing and drama. Participants committed to conduct programs in the next three months utilizing the tools and the education materials that they received during the training.

To date, three educator skills training programs in this new series have been conducted in Tamil Nadu. Based on feedback from these 125 newly-trained educators, a follow-up refresher workshop will be conducted in three months to evaluate and understand the experience that was gained while promoting HECx and implementing the teaching tools learned at this workshop.

### Vortex Population Modeling Courses

CBSG recently conducted two training courses on the use of the *Vortex* modeling program for population viability analysis (PVA) and species risk assessment. A basic course was held at the Brookfield Zoo in January 2013 and covered model development, sensitivity testing, and the development of management scenarios to assess impacts on long-term viability of populations. An advanced course was held for experienced *Vortex* modelers in March 2013 at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. The course focused in detail on program options for building complex population models, such as using functions and state variables, as well as options for intensive management. In all, 24 participants from zoos, universities, and NGOs received training in these two courses.

*Vortex* is an individual-based, stochastic simulation model for population viability analysis developed by Bob Lacy (Chicago Zoological Society). *Vortex* has been used to model hundreds of species in the past 20+ years, and is an integral component to the CBSG PHVA process. The software and manual can be downloaded at: [www.vortex10.org/Vortex10.html](http://www.vortex10.org/Vortex10.html). Please contact Kathy Traylor-Holzer ([kathy@cbsg.org](mailto:kathy@cbsg.org)) if you are interested in receiving announcements about future *Vortex* modeling or facilitation skills training courses offered by CBSG.



## Upcoming Activities

### Amur Tiger GSMP and Amur Leopard GSMP Meetings

CBSG will participate in a joint inaugural meeting of the newly established Amur Tiger Global Species Management Plan (GSMP) and Amur Leopard GSMP, which will be held in May at the Moscow Zoo. Participants from four regional zoo associations (EAZA, EAZA, JAZA, and AZA), along with field researchers and veterinarians, will discuss options for beneficial inter-regional transfers and collaborative efforts in *ex situ* management, research, and support of *in situ* conservation activities for these two threatened felids. GSMPs are approved and overseen by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). Other GSMPs have been established for the Sumatran tiger, red panda, blue-crowned laughing thrush, and Goodfellow's tree kangaroo. CBSG will provide population management advice and facilitate a framework of integrated conservation planning within the GSMP context.



Photo by Jackie Fallon

### Pollinator Conservation and Education Training Workshop

CBSG South Asia, ZOO/WILD, the IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group (SAsISG), in collaboration with The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, will organize a three-day workshop in June for researchers, biologists, and scientists working on pollinators in India. This field techniques workshop, sponsored by Chester Zoological Gardens, Columbus Zoo, and Green Asia Fund, will promote pollinator conservation and teach techniques for creating awareness about pollinators. The workshop will convey practical field techniques for use in pollinator studies; highlight what has become a crisis of pollinators; emphasize the role of invertebrates as pollinators; teach current best practice in survey, identification, land use management, etc.; and teach a short training course in education of laypersons about the need to conserve invertebrate pollinators. The workshop will help strengthen the existing Pollinator Network of the SAsISG and create a network of committed pollinator conservation researchers in India for future conservation action. We are honored to have Dr. Eric Mäder (Assistant Pollinator Program Director, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation) as the primary resource person. By promoting partnerships between students, researchers, extension workers, and other stakeholders, this effort will promote responsible practices with regard to pollinators, and create an action-oriented and cooperative conservation education consciousness at the local level.