

Announcements

Remember to Register for 2013 CBSG Annual Meeting!

The meeting will be hosted by Disney's Animal Kingdom in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA from 10-13 October.

Tentative working group topics include:

- Greening Your Portfolio
- Climate Change Education/Interpretation
- Aquariums of the Future: One Plan Approach
- Prioritizing for Conservation: Zoos Saving AZE Species
- Conservation Welfare
- An Institutional Application of the One Plan Approach to Conservation Planning
- Integrated Data Management for Reintroductions and Conservation Translocations: Linking *In Situ* and *Ex Situ* Data Management for Conservation
- Horizon Scanning for Zoos and Aquariums
- Confiscated animals: a conservation resource?

For more information and to register, please visit <http://mydisneymeetings.com/cbsg-2013>. Late registration continues until **27 September**. We hope to see you in Florida!

Southern Paraiba River Basin Action Plan Update

The 3rd Annual Monitoring Workshop of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Threatened Species of Freshwater Fauna of the Southern Paraiba River Basin was held from 1-4 April 2013. The action plan was created in 2010 at a workshop that took place in Brazil with the support of ICMbio and CBSG Brasil. Since then, the coordination team meets annually to monitor all aspects of the plan, including 12 goals and 60 actions. These goals focus on protecting 19 key species of aquatic fauna, including freshwater fishes, reptiles, crustaceans, and mollusks.

After three years of implementing the action plan, the group was proud to announce that over 50% of the actions are making excellent progress. About 5% of the actions were concluded, including identification of the high priority areas in the Southern Paraiba River Basin. Because of their ecological importance, actions for these areas were completed first and continue to be a priority. The team also identified actions that were delayed in their start or completion, including actions in the field of environmental education and training. In 2013, these themes will be the focus of coordination team efforts and fundraising.

CBSG eUpdate: August 2013

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The group has created a newsletter to publicize the Action Plan activities. To access the newsletter visit <http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/biodiversidade/fauna-brasileira/plano-de-acao/146-pan-paraiba-do-sul>. To join the mailing list and receive new information about the Southern Paraiba River Basin Action Plan, please contact carla.polaz@icmbio.gov.br.



Photo: Gluicia Drummond

EAZA Announces the First Issue of JZAR

The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) is proud to announce that the first issue of The Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research (JZAR) has been published online. JZAR is a new scientific journal that focuses on zoo-based research AND is fully Open Access with NO author contributions. Far from being only interesting for zoo-based people and organizations, JZAR will be a valuable resource and publication opportunity for *ex situ* and *in situ* species information for anyone involved with species conservation. JZAR provides a forum for rapid publication of conservation-related research, with a focus on novel, peer-reviewed research papers, review papers, technical reports and evidence-based case studies. Research categories covered by JZAR include studies in pure and applied biological sciences (e.g. behavior, genetics, medicine, nutrition, population management and reproduction), *in situ* conservation research (e.g. socio-economic and field surveys) and research aimed at developing other roles of zoos and aquariums (e.g. visitor learning and marketing surveys). A section of JZAR will be devoted to evidence-based husbandry for living collections. <http://www.eaza.net/News/newsblog/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=169>



Recent Activities

Recovering the Sonoran Pronghorn in the US and Mexico

The Sonoran pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana sonoriensis*) was one of the first species declared Endangered in the United States, receiving Federal protection under the new Endangered Species Preservation Act in 1967. A severe drought in 2002 almost wiped out this desert-adapted species in the United States: about 20 animals survived the harsh conditions. A semi-captive breeding effort led by the Arizona Game and Fish Department played a major role in helping the original Arizona pronghorn population rebound to almost 200 animals. Climate change, habitat loss, and human activities including mining threaten the small, fragile populations in both Arizona and Mexico.



The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in collaboration with other State and Federal authorities in the US and Mexico, are revising the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Plan, originally written in 1982 and revised in 1998. The USFWS invited CBSG and CBSG Mexico to conduct a population viability analysis (PVA) in April 2013 and to facilitate a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) in June as part of the recovery planning process. Participants focused on identifying recovery criteria, objectives, and actions for the plan. The new AZA studbook coordinator for the North America pronghorn population attended the PHVA, offering valuable information on captive population management in North American zoos. This Recovery Plan revision will explicitly include the Mexico populations in long-term conservation planning, as well as the process of analysis and recommendation regarding the future of the semi-captive populations in Arizona.

Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation (ZACC) Conference

From 8-12 July 2013, Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, Iowa—just a four hour drive from CBSG Headquarters—hosted an inspiring and high-quality conference, Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation (ZACC). ZACC provides opportunities for zoo and aquarium personnel and field researchers to meet and develop partnerships that benefit wildlife and wild places around the globe. This biennial conference has a mission and a spirit that is quite similar to that of the CBSG Annual Meeting. Approximately 25 CBSG members were among the 150+ people attending this year's conference. CBSG Brasil's Arnaud Desbiez gave a presentation on his excellent armadillo research funded by Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS). Bengt Holst of CBSG Europe shared a successful project working with a palm oil producer to ensure more sustainable palm oil production and protection of local wildlife. The ZACC participants were encouraged to attend the 2013 CBSG Annual Meeting in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA. In addition to attending the meeting, CBSG found time to meet with a number of people to discuss specific topics of interest. These side meetings provided opportunities to share CBSG's Zoo and Aquarium Climate Change Movement and talk with people interested in applying the One Plan approach to their species conservation planning efforts.

Ex Situ Masterplanning and Linking Zoos to In Situ Conservation for Felids

This spring CBSG has been involved in population management and conservation discussions for various threatened felid species on both regional and global levels. In May, CBSG assisted in the data analysis and facilitation of the joint inaugural meeting of the WAZA Amur Tiger Global Species Management Plan (GSMP) and Amur Leopard GSMP hosted by the Moscow Zoo. Both GSMPs went beyond global *ex situ* masterplanning to more broadly consider the conservation roles of zoos and *ex situ* felid populations in the overall conservation of these endangered felids. Recommendations were made for inter-regional transfers and other collaborative activities among the four regional zoo associations (EARAZA, EAZA, AZA, and JAZA) participating in these GSMPs. Discussions were also held with Russia's Ministry of Natural Resources to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with both GSMPs to promote integration of *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation in the native range country of Russia.



Photo: Minnesota Zoo

In June, CBSG participated in the annual AZA Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP) masterplan meeting and Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) annual conference hosted by the Jacksonville Zoo. CBSG provided data analysis and population management advice for breeding recommendations for Amur, Malayan, and Sumatran tigers in North American zoos. In addition to masterplan recommendations, the SSP also discussed research and assisted reproduction efforts, genome resource bank planning, and support for *in situ* conservation efforts. This year's theme for the annual AZA Felid TAG was "Linking Zoos to *In Situ* Conservation," and the meeting highlighted various projects and methods for zoo support of wild felid populations, addressing diverse issues such as human-wildlife conflict, poaching, and disease. CBSG presented an overview of the One Plan approach to integrated species conservation planning, illustrating how the new draft IUCN guidelines for the use of *ex situ* management can be used to better integrate *ex situ* activities into this process.

CBSG's Participation in the International Congress of Conservation Biology 2013

CBSG presented information on two important initiatives at this year's International Congress of Conservation Biology (ICCB) in July in Baltimore, MD, USA. Phil Miller and CBSG Science Advisor Bob Lacy of the Chicago Zoological Society delivered oral presentations on our metamodeling initiative. Kathy Traylor-Holzer gave a poster presentation on the application of the revised IUCN guidelines on *ex situ* management to the One Plan approach to integrated species conservation planning. We appreciated the opportunity to bring these exciting projects to a diverse audience across the broad field of conservation biology at ICCB 2013.



Upcoming Activities

Assessing Viability of the Colorado Pikeminnow in the San Juan River

CBSG is in the early stages of a two-year project designed to create a detailed demographic model of the Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) in the San Juan River. The Colorado pikeminnow can grow to be six feet long and weigh up to 80 pounds—no "minnow" by conventional standards. The species was listed as Endangered in the United States in 1967, and occurs in large rivers of the Colorado Basin in the west-central part of the country. Stream alteration and habitat fragmentation have led to a significant decline in the Colorado pikeminnow population. More recently, coal mining and associated energy production have resulted in mercury and selenium contamination on the San Juan River in New Mexico, which may be contributing to an alarming decrease in pikeminnow reproduction in the area.



Colorado Pikeminnow

The first meeting for this project will be held in August 2013. The demographic model created by CBSG will help Federal wildlife authorities and other involved stakeholders develop a deeper understanding of potentially threatening processes operating throughout pikeminnow habitat. This improved understanding will contribute to the creation of more effective management strategies to fight off localized extinction.

Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey Workshop

CBSG is starting an exciting new initiative with Rare, a conservation organization that uses social marketing to promote human behavior change for the benefit of both wildlife and local human needs. Our goal in this partnership is to design a process that most effectively integrates CBSG's expertise in species conservation planning with Rare's expertise in working with local stakeholders. This integrated approach will help us create effective strategies for enhancing species viability through direct involvement with local human populations.



The first test of this initiative will take place in northern Peru in mid-August, where CBSG will conduct a PVA-based risk assessment for local populations of the Critically Endangered yellow-tailed woolly monkey (*Oreonax flavicauda*). Together with Rare, CBSG will create a demographic simulation model to test alternative human behavior change scenarios that will both enhance woolly monkey population viability and reduce pressures on other natural resources in the area. CBSG will return to the region in 2014 and hold a second, larger workshop with local government and civil representatives to create an action plan reflecting this integrated approach.