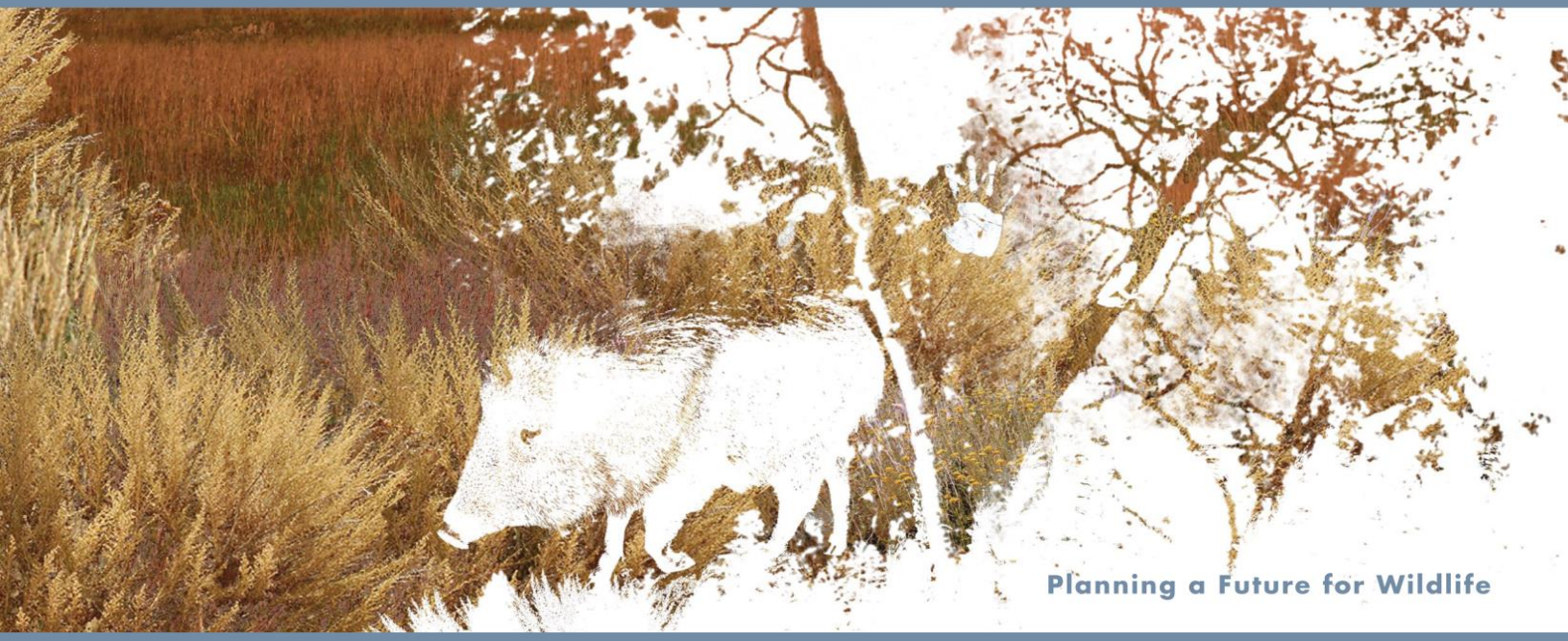
CBSG Annual Report 2016



IUCN SSC Species Survival Commission

CONSERVATION BREEDING SPECIALIST GROUP

CONTENTS

OUR MISSION

CBSG's mission is to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide.

By:

- **developing innovative and interdisciplinary methodologies,**
- **providing culturally sensitive and respectful facilitation,**
- **promoting global partnerships and collaborations, and**
- **fostering *ex situ* contributions to species conservation,**

CBSG transforms passion for wildlife into effective conservation.

FROM THE CHAIR: A(NOTHER) PIVOTAL MOMENT FOR CBSG

For the second time in our history, we are poised to undergo a major leap in our evolution.

First, a quick review. Prior to 1994, as the Captive Breeding Specialist Group, we helped zoos and aquariums maintain genetically and demographically healthy populations. Then, as populations in the wild increasingly came to mimic the small isolated populations in zoos, CBSG's mandate expanded to include providing expertise on management of small, *in situ* populations. To better reflect this evolution, we changed our name from "Captive" to "Conservation". To this day, we remain focused on integrated species conservation planning (now referred to as the One Plan approach) for both *ex situ* and *in situ* populations.

Now, 22 years later, CBSG's mandate is expanding once again. Given the continued deterioration of the world's wildlife, conservation action for species is more important than ever, and the need to substantially increase its scale and effectiveness is clear. The SSC recognizes the value of both CBSG's inclusive, participatory planning process, and our community of experts, in catalyzing and guiding effective action for species. In light of this, the new SSC Chair, Jon Paul Rodríguez, has asked CBSG to lead a new initiative to increase the SSC's involvement in species planning.

We could choose simply to continue the work we currently do so well. Today, by every measure, CBSG is as strong, effective, and productive as it has ever been. On the pages of this Annual Report you will see ample evidence of this: examples of the 20 species planning projects conducted in 2016, creative new initiatives and, most exciting, the publication of our book, *Second Nature*, documenting 10 species for which CBSG's intervention helped improve conditions in the wild.

But anyone familiar with CBSG knows that we are innovators, risk takers and, above all, passionate conservationists looking to make the largest possible contribution to changing the future for endangered species.

"CBSG's collaborative, inclusive, and science-based approach to planning not only helps achieve the SSC's vision, but also ensures it delivers the most effective conservation action to protect future generations of threatened species."—Simon Stuart, SSC Chair 2008-2016

Unsurprisingly, we have embraced this expanded mandate and, in 2017, to better reflect this evolution in our work, we will again change our name and become the Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG).

Of course, CBSG as we know it—a group recognized as leaders in small population management and species conservation planning; a group now being called upon to lead this work on behalf of the entire SSC—exists thanks to the loyal and committed CBSG community, including the generous zoos, aquariums, zoo associations, and individuals that make up our Global Conservation Network (page 18), which has helped to shape and support our evolution. This community, together with colleagues throughout SSC and IUCN, will rise to the challenge.

As the CPSG, we will embrace new directions and strategies. At the same time we will maintain our commitment and increase our capacity to respond to requests for assistance with urgent projects. We will approach all our work with our characteristic dedication to science, neutral facilitation, and collaboration, with the One Plan approach philosophy underpinning it all.

We are honored to have been given the opportunity to amplify our work, increase the SSC's impact through enhanced species planning, and, ultimately, fulfill our mission to help save endangered species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide.

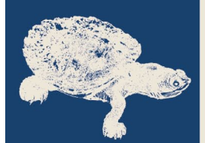
Dr. Onnie Byers, *CBSG Chair*

2016 AT A GLANCE

Conservation Planning for **63** Species

56 Mammals

4 Birds



2 Reptiles

1 Fish

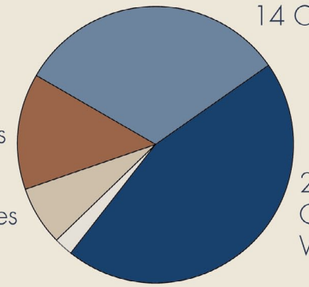
44 Workshops

6 Planning Workshops for Conservation Organizations

3 Training Courses

14 Conferences

20 PHVA and Species Conservation Planning Workshops



Where We Worked in 2016

15 Countries

380 Members

6 Headquarters Staff

10 Regional Networks

2016 OUTCOMES

- The results of the 2016 eastern barred bandicoot (EBB) disease risk analysis were used as a key document in an application to the Victorian Translocation Evaluation Panel requesting support to introduce EBBs on Phillip Island.

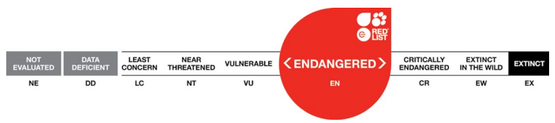
- AZA's Canid and Hyaenid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) used the results of the 2016 global Integrated Collection Assessment and Planning (ICAP) workshop for these taxa to form the basis of its Regional Collection Plan (RCP), using ICAP recommendations as the primary filter in its decision tree for *ex situ* management. The general ICAP process is being adapted by other TAGs for their strategic planning and RCPs.

- Since the workshop for Raffles' banded langurs in 2016, the first langur citizen science project in Singapore has been initiated. Every weekend, members of the public survey for langurs, helping fulfill the workshop recommendations to gather more data on langurs and raise public awareness of the species' plight.

DESIGNING A CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR CHACOAN PECCARIES

Chacoan Peccary Facts

- The Chacoan peccary (or taguá) was first recognized as a species in 1975, making it one of the most recently discovered large mammals.
- According to data from the University of Maryland, between 2001 and 2014 the Gran Chaco region lost about 8.4 million hectares of tree cover—more than 14% of its total cover.
- Hunting Chacoan peccaries is illegal in the three range countries, except when practiced by indigenous local people in Paraguay. However, unsustainable illegal hunting continues, putting pressure on already fragmented and shrinking populations.



"The high level of constructive and positive energy that existed throughout the workshop was inspirational and created a sense of hope. A group of people with very different backgrounds but a shared vision working together produced an outcome that is more than the sum of each individual. That is where I see the value of these workshops."—Mariana Altrichter, Peccary Specialist Group Co-Chair

The Situation

Chacoan peccaries (*Catagonius wagneri*) inhabit the thorn forests of the Gran Chaco in Bolivia, Argentina, and Paraguay. Not much is known about the species' ecology and current situation. In 1993, the entire population was estimated to be fewer than 5,000 individuals, and it has continued to decline due to habitat destruction and overhunting. In recent years, the conversion of forest for ranching and agriculture has increased rapidly. These trends pose a threat to the species, which is already struggling under unsustainable hunting pressure. Before 2016, the last and only conservation plan for the species was more than 20 years old.

The Process

The IUCN SSC Peccary Specialist Group (PSG) considered it crucial to design a new conservation strategy with input from major stakeholders. In 2016, government representatives, NGOs, researchers, and local people met in Paraguay to compile information on the species, analyze its conservation status, and identify actions to respond to the main threats: habitat loss, hunting, and lack of knowledge. CBSG Brasil completed habitat suitability modeling and facilitated the PHVA process, incorporating the participatory creation of an action plan according to the IUCN species conservation planning guidelines. CBSG Europe provided population viability modeling expertise and applied the IUCN *ex situ* guidelines to assess the potential roles for *ex situ* management.

The Results

The conservation strategy created by the participants incorporated the results of the workshop and was published in *Suiform Soundings* in late 2016. PSG and other workshop collaborators wrote a letter—which was signed by more than 20 academic, research, and indigenous organizations—to the governments of the three range countries to alert them to the species' decline and to ask them to take action. Guyra Paraguay, co-organizer of the workshop, facilitated the creation of a new protected area in Paraguay. To increase awareness, environmental education campaigns have been initiated in the Argentine Chaco, and *Mongabay*, a conservation news website, published an article about the peccary's plight.

CREATING A FUTURE FOR THE WESTERN GROUND PARROT

Western Ground Parrot Facts

- The western ground parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*) is a shy, slender, medium-sized parrot with a long tail. It is related to the mysterious night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*), but probably much rarer.
- These birds are rarely seen, as they feed on or close to the ground, where they eat seeds, flowers, fruits and leaves.
- This species does not have an IUCN Red List assessment as it is considered by Birdlife International to be a subspecies of the Australian ground parrot. However, based on morphological and molecular evidence and the length of time since separation from other ground parrots, the western ground parrot is afforded species status in Australia and is listed as Critically Endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

"CBSG was able to bring an independent contribution to a process involving a critically threatened species, building confidence both in the work we have put in so far, as well as in the workshop outcomes."—Allan Burbidge, Principal Research Scientist, Department of Parks and Wildlife

The Situation

As a result of significant range contraction over the past few decades, western ground parrots (WGP) are now thought to number no more than 150 individuals, all of which are confined to a single area of heathland on the south coast of Western Australia. Bushfires in late 2015 destroyed 90% of the previously occupied habitat, leaving the future of the species highly uncertain. Mitigating threats, such as fire and predation by feral cats and introduced foxes, is arduous and exacerbated by climate change. A small captive population is in place but there has been limited breeding success so far.

The Process

On 30 March 2016, 40 delegates from 19 organizations gathered in Western Australia at the invitation of the Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife. Participants recognized that, despite the significant efforts to date, there is a high risk of the species becoming extinct, and that this risk can only be reduced by increasing both the abundance of individuals and the number of populations. The issues surrounding effective intervention to achieve this are complex and challenging for many reasons. Topic-based working groups were formed around these key issues and after defining the challenges, participants identified, evaluated, and prioritized strategies to overcome them.

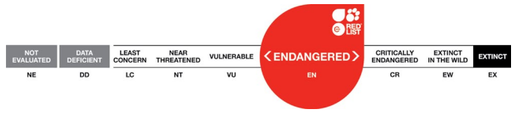
The Results

The results of these deliberations are being used to inform Parks and Wildlife's recovery program for WGPs, which will bring benefits not only to this species but to the many others that share its habitats. Since the workshop, efforts have been concentrated on monitoring birds in the few pockets of unburnt vegetation and searching nearby areas for additional survivors, which has found parrots in areas not previously occupied. Control of introduced predators, delivered through baiting and trapping programs, remains a key focus. Planning for additional fire protection is also underway. The field team is assessing potential translocation sites and will incorporate models based on most recent climate change scenarios into this process.

HEADSTARTING BLUE-SIDED TREE FROGS IN COSTA RICA

Blue-sided Tree Frog Facts

- Blue-sided tree frogs have a striking appearance: green upper parts; blue, pink, orange, and lavender limbs and flanks; and yellow orange eyes. As a result of this beautiful coloration, the species is popular in the international pet trade.
- Small, fragmented populations of the species persist only in disturbed sites surrounding San Jose, Costa Rica.
- Blue-sided tree frogs lay their eggs on the underside of leaves that hang over bodies of water. When the tadpoles are developed, they fall or wash into the water during a heavy rain. As temperatures increase and the dry season lengthens due to climate change, alterations in rainfall and dropping humidity levels could disrupt the process.



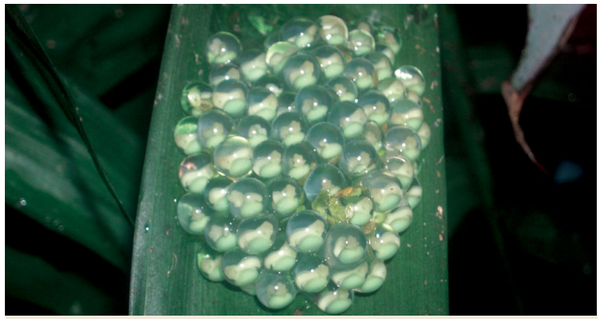
"The guidelines will help us with the proper management of the ex situ *population, which will serve an important conservation role for* Agalychnis annae *in Costa Rica."*—José Hernández, Simón Bolívar Zoo

The Situation

The blue-sided tree frog (*Agalychnis annae*) is an adaptable species once common in forested areas and disturbed habitats such as coffee plantations and gardens in Costa Rica's Central Valley. Urban expansion decreased these habitats in the 1980s, and now these amphibians are restricted to fragmented sites within San Jose that have enough vegetation and access to water. One of those sites is a pond located on the property of Simón Bolívar Zoological Park. The zoo began planning a conservation project for the species and organized a workshop to define possible *ex situ* roles for the subpopulation located on site.

The Process

In 2016, representatives of the zoo met with herpetologists from the University of Costa Rica and other species specialists to discuss the management of the subpopulation of blue-sided tree frogs that lives on the zoo grounds. The main objective was to discuss a protection project that combined *in situ* and *ex situ* elements to maintain viability of the fragmented populations found within the city and the country. Led by CBSG Mesoamerica, the participants consulted the IUCN SSC *ex situ* guidelines and recommended a headstarting program to augment the wild population. They then drafted specific guidelines for management of the subpopulation within the property.



The Results

Eggs gathered on site for the headstart program have already produced tadpoles and metamorphosed into adult frogs. These individuals will either be released back into the habitat in the park, join other existing subpopulations in suitable habitats, or become part of exhibitions dedicated to education about the species. This is the first *ex situ* population in Costa Rica dedicated to research, environmental education, and supplementation of a natural population. Planning continues for the reintroduction effort, which will also follow IUCN guidelines and likely will genetically connect several sites where the species is currently found, as well as possibly repopulate protected areas where blue-sided tree frogs used to live.

ANALYZING DISEASE RISK IN BELLINGER RIVER SNAPPING TURTLES

Bellinger River Snapping Turtle Facts

- Bellinger River snapping turtles (BRSTs) are medium-sized freshwater turtles with a shell length up to 185 mm in males and 250 mm in females.
- In common with many other Australian freshwater turtles, mortality rates in BRSTs decrease with age. Therefore the ability of the BRST population to recover from a catastrophic loss of adults is limited without intervention.
- Other identified potential threats to this species include limited distribution and habitat requirements, predation, water quality, climate change, and hybridization and competition with Murray River turtles (*Emydura macquarii*).

"The CBSG workshop provided us with a clear and logical means for working through the challenges facing the turtle. The opportunity to have a facilitated process with the species experts all in the same room with us was invaluable."—Shane Ruming, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

The Situation

In early 2015, a previously unidentified virus resulted in the loss of most of the adult population of Bellinger River snapping turtles (*Myuchelys georgesi*). This endemic turtle's distribution is confined to a 60 km stretch of the Bellinger River and, possibly, a portion of the nearby Kalang River, in coastal northeastern New South Wales (NSW). Prior to this event, the population was estimated to be 1,600 to 4,500 individuals. The population estimate is now 200-300 turtles, predominantly juveniles, and the species has been listed as Critically Endangered. An *ex situ* population has been established to provide immediate insurance against extinction and to generate turtles for release to aid recovery.

The Process

In November 2016, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage brought 16 experts from eight organizations to Taronga Zoo to discuss and recommend next steps in the recovery of BRSTs based on their agreed interpretation of the information gathered to date. The workshop, facilitated by CBSG Australasia, included assessments of all known risks to BRSTs, with Bellinger River Virus given particular attention through a comprehensive disease risk analysis (DRA). This was the first workshop in which the IUCN SSC/World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) DRA process was fully incorporated into CBSG's broader conservation planning approach, ensuring disease threats were considered in the context of other potentially contributing threatening processes.

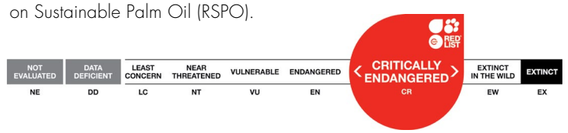
The Results

The resulting action plan includes disease investigation and mitigation measures, protection and threat mitigation on the river, captive breeding for release, and ways to engage the local community. Longer-term priorities (5-20 years) emphasized reducing the impact of fox predation and developing an integrated program of riparian rehabilitation and in-stream health.
Since the workshop, there has been successful breeding with the captive population at Taronga Zoo, producing 21 hatchlings. A second population of juveniles has been acquired from the river, which will form a second captive breeding population when the turtles reach maturity.

TWENTY YEARS OF ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION PLANNING

Orangutan Facts

- Sumatran orangutans share habitat with other endangered endemic species such as Sumatran tigers, rhinos, and elephants. Protecting their habitat benefits many threatened species.
- Two of the 10 Sumatran orangutan populations are reintroduced populations, and several rehabilitation centers on Borneo help return orangutans to the wild.
- Most wild orangutan populations would be viable if they could be protected from further habitat loss and fragmentation and from hunting or capture for illegal trade.
- Everyone can help protect these habitats by limiting purchases of products containing palm oil that are not labeled as sustainable by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).



"We are lucky to have (CBSG) for this PHVA and training … thank you so much for all your hard work."—Ermayanti, FORINA

The Situation

The orangutan is the only great ape native to Asia and is comprised of two species: *Pongo abelii* in Sumatra and *Pongo pygmaeus* in Borneo. Both species are now restricted to the remaining forest fragments and are considered to be Critically Endangered. These arboreal apes are declining due to habitat loss and degradation caused by oil palm plantations, logging, mining, and other development, exacerbated by illegal hunting and trade. Since 1993, CBSG has assisted the Indonesian government and NGOs in assessing population status and threats for this iconic animal. CBSG-led PHVA workshops in 1993, 2004, and 2016 have provided assessments and recommendations to feed into conservation strategies and action plans for orangutan conservation. Forum Orangutan Indonesia (FORINA), a central coordinating body for orangutan conservation, was established in 2009 with orangutan conservation communities due in part to recommendations from the 2004 PHVA.

The Process

The most recent PHVA, held in 2016, was organized by the Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation, in partnership with FORINA, the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group, and the Orangutan Foundation-United Kingdom. In May, 84 experts from 50 organizations gathered in Indonesia to share updated information on orangutan distribution, abundance, threats, and conservation activities. GIS habitat modeling and *Vortex* population modeling assessed current and future status, including likely impacts of specific threats and management actions.

The Results

Each of the PHVAs has helped to move orangutan conservation forward and formed the basis for the next conservation strategy. The 2016 workshop identified 65 orangutan populations and meta-populations across Sumatra and Borneo, ranging greatly in size. Modeling provided insight into the relative vulnerabilities of each population and habitat fragment, and the impacts of future management. These results will inform the new National Orangutan Strategy and Action Plan for 2017-2027 and will assist in revised spatial planning to support orangutan conservation.

2016 CHAIR'S CITATION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD: JO GIPPS

At the 2016 CBSG Annual Meeting in Puebla, Mexico, Onnie Byers presented the CBSG Chair's Citation of Excellence to Dr. Jo Gipps. Jo received this award "in recognition of his 25 years of dedication to CBSG's conservation mission, values, and unique spirit; his continuing contribution to its work and governance; and his deep and unfailing affection for CBSG."

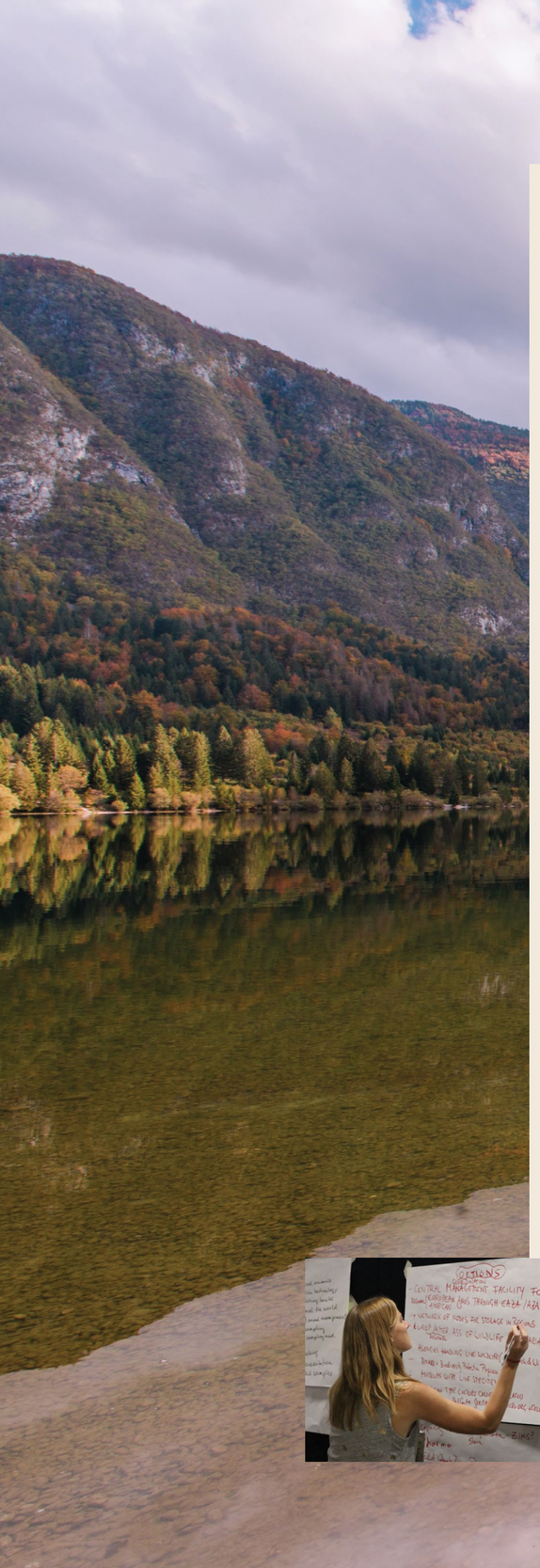
Since 1991, Jo has served as an active CBSG member, a leader on our Strategic Committee, and Chair of the Global Conservation Network Board of Trustees. Jo's commitment to CBSG is evident in all he does on behalf of our organization. But Jo also contributes through his promotion of CBSG within his broad and influential network of colleagues and friends. Due to Jo's persistence, charm, and occasional friendly arm-twisting, CBSG has gained many valuable intellectual contributors as well as GCN donors.

IUCN SSC
CONSERVATION BREEDING SPECIALIST GROUP
CHAIR'S
CITATION OF EXCELLENCE
Presented by the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group
on this 9th day of October 2016 to

Dr. Jo Gipps

In recognition of his 25 years of dedication to CBSG's conservation mission, values, and unique spirit; his continuing contribution to its work and governance; and his deep and unfailing affection for CBSG.

IUCN · CONSERVATION BREEDING SPECIALIST GROUP · SSC Species Survival Commission



EMBRACING A NEW MANDATE IN SPECIES CONSERVATION PLANNING

The IUCN's Species Survival Commission is internationally known and respected for its rigorous work assessing the threatened status of the world's species. But it has long been recognized by the SSC leadership that assessing species decline is not enough. We must take action to stop it, and the first step is effective species conservation planning. The SSC has a long history of planning for species conservation, but the current need far exceeds capacity.

In an effort to address this, shortly after becoming Chair of SSC in 2016, Jon Paul Rodríguez asked CBSG to take the lead in advancing SSC's species planning initiative. This is a clear recognition of CBSG's 30 year history of species conservation planning, our loyal base of intellectual and financial contributors, our continuous desire to innovate, and our openness to change. We have gladly accepted this new responsibility.

The SSC's vision for planning is that the status of species is improved through conservation planning that supports governments and wider society in achieving biodiversity targets identified in international conventions. This includes the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, both of which call for halting the loss of biodiversity. This is made operational in the species planning-specific Key Species Results (KSRs) of the SSC Strategic Plan 2017-2020. While CBSG will serve as the coordinating body for species planning and be responsible for reporting on the KSRs, they will be delivered by, or in collaboration with, others in the SSC, the IUCN Global Species Program, and other partners.

CBSG's work to help the SSC achieve the planning vision has already begun. Since being asked to expand our mandate, we have:

- Surveyed Specialist Group (SG) chairs to determine the needs, priorities, and available expertise around species planning. We are analyzing the survey results, which will be used to inform the development of a planning strategy for the SSC.
- Created an inventory of recent SSC species planning products.
- Expanded our membership to include many of the SSC's planning leaders, including those survey respondents who offered to share their planning expertise with fellow SGs.
- Hired a Director of Training to develop the capacity building aspect of the initiative.

But this is only the beginning. To scale up, the SSC needs to assist governments to do more species planning faster, but just as well. This will require moving more species, more quickly through the cycle (Figure 1). Across the SSC we have some of the tools needed to support this expanded effort but there are gaps. While we will continue our intensive, single species planning work, CBSG will increasingly devote resources to the development of multi-species planning approaches.

Goals for this aspect of our work include: 1) identifying a more rapid risk assessment tool for specialist group-driven assessments, particularly for those groups with speciose taxa, to progress faster the diagnosis of taxa for which planning might be needed; 2) adopting a universal conservation needs assessment tool to be applied as an add-on to the Red Listing process; and 3) improving complementarity among Red Listing, conservation needs assessments, and conservation planning; with the ultimate goal of deploying a suite of planning tools or templates catering to single, few, and multi-species planning situations.

CBSG looks forward to working with colleagues throughout SSC, and IUCN more broadly, to substantially increase the amount and effectiveness of SSC's involvement in species conservation planning. There is a great deal of species planning expertise and experience within the SSC. As part of our mandate, over the next four years CBSG will help catalyze and coordinate those resources to make progress on the SSC Strategic Plan and, in turn, the international biodiversity targets aimed at preventing species extinction.

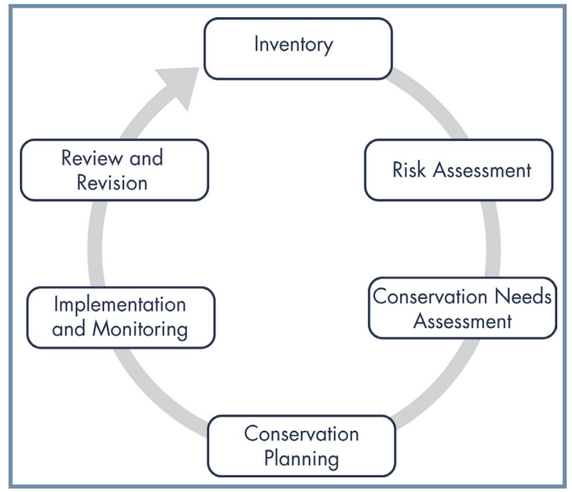
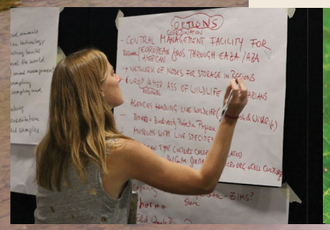


Figure 1: A representative cycle of steps in the process of taking action to conserve large groups of taxa. CBSG Creative Thinking Session, 2017.






SHARING SUCCESSES TO BOLSTER HOPE AND CATALYZE INNOVATION

With all the threats facing biodiversity, it can be easy for conservationists to become discouraged. Without question, there are serious challenges facing our planet. Yet throughout CBSG's history, we have seen that conservation does work to restore species in the wild. There is good news. There are success stories. And research indicates that sharing positive progress and good news is more likely to inspire people to take action and change their behavior for the benefit of the planet.

Over the past two years, CBSG has undertaken an effort to follow up on past species planning projects. We contacted individuals from around the world with whom we have collaborated over the years and who are still active in species conservation. We asked them if CBSG's expertise and planning processes positively impacted the trajectory of a species' status over time, and whether the workshop had influenced any other conservation progress.

The result of our inquiries is a book called *Second Nature*, in which we share ten examples of what can occur when dedicated people with diverse perspectives work toward a common purpose: to help a species survive. Each chapter tells the story of what happened when a government agency, zoo, or other conservation organization asked CBSG to help them overcome a problem they were having with their work to save a threatened species. Each faced different, very specific challenges, but they knew that CBSG's scientifically sound, consensus-based methods could help them improve their results.

This collaborative approach is second nature to CBSG. It's in our DNA. It was the vision of Dr. Ulysses S. Seal when he became CBSG's chair in 1979, and it informs every aspect of our work to this day. CBSG's principles of sound science, neutral facilitation, and commitment to collaboration and their transformative effect on conservation efforts are shown throughout the book. Not only are there direct, measurable improvements to populations in the wild and successful *ex situ* conservation projects to support them, but the collaborators also shared the many more intangible impacts fostered by the spirit of CBSG workshops, such as ongoing collaboration, official partnerships, and greater understanding of the value of conservation, even among skeptics.

CBSG found great benefit in researching and writing these stories. Not only can *Second Nature* make clear to our partners, donors, and the public that CBSG's methods are effective for long-term improvements to species status, but CBSG can also use the insights gained from talking to collaborators many years after the workshop itself to understand what worked best for each unique situation. We can then use this information to innovate, adapt, and continuously improve our work going forward.

But these success stories do not belong to CBSG alone. They also belong to the people around the world—local community members, scientists, researchers, government representatives, zoo and aquarium professionals, and representatives of nongovernmental organizations—who played a critical role in the workshop and made sure the action plan was put into practice in the months and years following. They belong to CBSG's generous and loyal donors, whose crucial support makes our work possible.

Second Nature is just a sample of the hundreds of stories we could tell of dedicated conservationists finding common ground, overcoming conflicts, and developing creative, effective solutions that change the future for endangered species. By bringing people together to address a shared goal, appreciating the value of collaboration, and pushing for innovation, we do more than address challenges. We bring about second chances for wildlife and a more hopeful future for the planet.

Discover Second Nature at **http://www.cbsg.org/second-nature.**






2016 PHVA AND SPECIES CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOPS AND SPONSORS

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Tiger Species Survival Plan Masterplan Meeting, USA
Minnesota Zoo Foundation

Bison PVA II Development Meeting, USA
National Park Service; Wildlife Conservation Society

California Spotted Owl Conservation Strategy Public Meeting, USA
United States Forest Service

Chacoan Peccary Conservation Planning Workshop, Paraguay
Copenhagen Zoo; Global Conservation Network (GCN)/CBSG; IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Sub-committee; Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund; Secretaría del Ambiente (SEAM); World Land Trust

Chinese White Dolphin PVA, China
Hong Kong International Airport; Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong

Colorado Pikeminnow PVA, USA
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Conservation Planning for Raffles' Banded Langur in Malaysia and Singapore, Singapore
Wildlife Reserves Singapore

Costa Rican Crocodile PVA, Costa Rica
Biology School-Universidad de Costa Rica; Clodomiro Picado; FUNDAZOO

Creating a Future for the Western Ground Parrot, Australia
Birdlife Western Australia; Friends of the Western Ground Parrot; National Landcare Program; South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.; South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team; Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife; World Wildlife Fund Australia (WWF)

Disease Risk Analysis and Conservation Planning for the Bellinger River Snapping Turtle, Australia
Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales, Australia

Eastern Barred Bandicoot Disease Risk Analysis: Proposed Translocation to French and Phillip Islands, Australia
Auckland Zoo; Eastern Barred Bandicoot Recovery Team; Zoos Victoria

Giant Panda Annual Conference and Technical Meeting, China
Chengdu Research Base for Giant Panda Breeding; Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens

Global Integrated Collection Assessment and Planning (ICAP) Workshop for Canids and Hyaenids, USA
GCN/CBSG; Saint Louis Zoo

Mexican Wolf PVA Workshops (multiple), USA
USFWS

Nilgiri Tahr PHVA Scoping Workshop, India
Kerala Forest Department

Orangutan PHVA, Indonesia
ARCUS; FORINA; GCN/CBSG

Sumatran Tiger GSMP Workshop, Indonesia
Taman Safari Indonesia; World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Committee for Population Management (CPM); Zoological Society of London

Sumatran Tiger PVA Workshop, Indonesia
Wildlife Conservation Society – Indonesia Programme

Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) Strategic Planning Workshop, USA
International Crane Foundation; USFWS

Whooping Crane PVA, Canada
Calgary Zoo; Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program; ConocoPhillips Canada

PHVA and Species Conservation Planning

Using CBSG's structured tools for issue formulation and problem solving, stakeholders collaborate to develop effective recommendations for species conservation action, including the identification of personal responsibilities and timelines to ensure that the recommendations become reality. Our Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) process combines this approach with traditional population viability analysis (PVA) methodologies to enhance both the process and product of the species conservation planning workshop. CBSG also assists with planning for intensively managed populations, including *ex situ* masterplans.

In 2016, CBSG led, co-led, or provided analysis for 20 PHVA and Species Conservation Planning Workshops held in 9 countries, for 63 species and involving 606 people from 317 organizations.

Planning for Conservation Organizations

CBSG works with conservation organizations, including wildlife agencies, zoological parks, and associations of conservation professionals, to develop plans for conservation action. From strategic planning for national wildlife refuges to developing zoo conservation masterplans, CBSG leads stakeholders from the establishment of a vision through the exploration of issues and the development of goals to cultivate a conservation culture and to guide future actions.

In 2016, CBSG was involved in 6 Planning Workshops for Conservation Organizations in 6 countries, involving a total of 128 people from 66 organizations.

2016 PLANNING FOR CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS WORKSHOPS AND SPONSORS

***Agalychnis annae Ex Situ* Management Workshop, Costa Rica**
Biology School-Universidad de Costa Rica; FUNDAZOO

Amphibian Ark Strategic Planning, USA
Zoo Atlanta

EAZA Tuberculosis Workshop, France
EAZA; Paris Zoo

Planning a Native Species Experience at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, New Zealand
The Waitangi Trust

Workshop to Develop a Wildlife Health Plan for the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador
Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust

Zoo and Aquarium Accreditation Summit, Singapore
GCN/CBSG; WAZA





2016 TRAINING WORKSHOPS AND SPONSORS

Facilitation and Communication Skills Training, Canada
GCN/CBSG; Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust; Toronto Zoo

Population Management Training Workshop, Taiwan
Taipei Zoo; WAZA Committee for Population Management

***VORTEX* Training Course, Indonesia**
FORINA; GCN/CBSG

Training in Conservation Techniques

CBSG offers training courses in a variety of skills that build capacity and promote effective conservation. Facilitation courses allow participants to hone their skills in structured decision making, communication, group dynamics, and conflict resolution. Courses in risk assessment and modeling provide an overview of population biology and conservation planning, focusing on the use of simulation methods for evaluating extinction risk under various management strategies. Training is also available in *ex situ* population management principles, techniques, and software, as well as in application of the IUCN guidelines for use of *ex situ* management for conservation. Other types of conservation-related training courses are offered periodically to meet the specific needs of organizations or regions.

In 2016, CBSG led or co-led 3 Training Workshops in 3 countries, involving a total of 60 people from 43 organizations.

Tool Development

One of CBSG's most valuable and consistent strengths is in the development and application of a variety of tools designed to help conservation professionals manage biodiversity. These tools can range from quantitative simulation software rooted in the science of population biology and decision analysis, to sophisticated facilitation techniques intended to identify levels of agreement across alternative conservation strategies among diverse stakeholder groups. In addition, collaborating with other conservation organizations gives us access and exposure to new tools that can help us broaden our capabilities and increase our effectiveness.

In 2016, CBSG led 1 Tool Development meeting involving 4 individuals from 3 organizations.

2016 TOOL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS AND SPONSORS

***Vortex* Captive Population Modeling Discussion, USA**
Saint Louis Zoo; Species Conservation Toolkit Initiative (SCTI)

2016 SPONSORS OF CBSG CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

British Association of Zoos and Aquaria (BIAZA) Conference, UK
BIAZA

CBSG Annual Meeting, Mexico
GCN/CBSG

Conservation Centers for Species Survival Annual Meeting, USA
San Diego Zoo; Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

Mexican/Red Wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) Meeting, USA
Endangered Wolf Center; Wolf Conservation Center; Wolf Haven International

North American Congress of Conservation Biology, USA
GCN/CBSG

Open Standards Training, USA
GCN/CBSG

South East Asian Zoo Association (SEAZA) Annual Conference, Indonesia
GCN/CBSG; Zoological Society of London

Second Joint TAG Chairs Meeting, USA
GCN/CBSG

Source Population Alliance Meeting, USA
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center; Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

Species360 Board Meeting, USA
GCN/CBSG

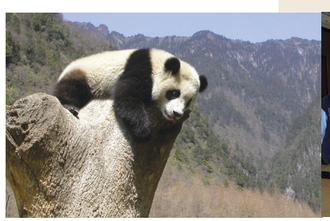
SSC Steering Committee Meeting, USA
IUCN SSC

The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference, USA
GCN/CBSG

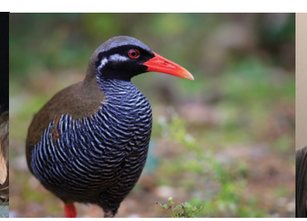
WAZA Committee for Population Management (CPM) Meeting, USA
GCN/CBSG

WAZA Annual Conference, Mexico
GCN/CBSG

World Conservation Congress, USA
GCN/CBSG; IUCN SSC








2016 CBSG DONORS

$25,000 and above

Minnesota Zoo
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo
George Rabb*
SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment*
Saint Louis Zoo Animals Always®
Zoo Copenhagen*

$20,000 and above

Toronto Zoo
World Association of Zoos and Aquariums WAZA | United for Conservation®
ZSL Living Conservation

$15,000 and above

Chester Zoo*
Zooh! Zurich*
Disney's Animal Kingdom
Chicago Zoological Society* Inspiring Conservation Leadership
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
The Wilds

$10,000 and above

Alice Andrews*
Auckland Zoological Park
Dallas World Aquarium*
Houston Zoo*
San Diego Zoo Global
Taronga Conservation Society Australia
Wildlife Conservation Society
Zoo Leipzig*

$5,000 and above

Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort
Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA)
Anne Baker & Robert Lacy
British & Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)
Detroit Zoological Society
Lincoln Park Zoo
Nordens Ark*
Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong*
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Schönbrunner Tiergarten – Zoo Vienna*
Smithsonian National Zoological Park

$2,000 and above

Allwetterzoo Münster
Association of Zoological Gardens (VdZ)
Borås Djurpark*
Bristol Zoo Gardens
Carlson Family Foundation
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Dallas Zoo
Dickerson Park Zoo
Dublin Zoo
European Association of Zoos & Aquaria (EAZA)
Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
Fota Wildlife Park, Ireland
Fundación Parques Reunidos
Givskud Zoo
Gladys Porter Zoo
Japanese Association of Zoos & Aquariums (JAZA)
Kansas City Zoo
Laurie Bingaman Lackey
The Living Desert
Linda Malek
North Carolina Zoological Park
Oregon Zoo
Paignton Zoo
Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
San Francisco Zoo
Sedgwick County Zoo
Seoul Zoo
Swedish Association of Zoological Parks & Aquaria (SAZA)
Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens
Twycross Zoo
Utah's Hogle Zoo
Wilhelma Zoo
Woodland Park Zoo
Zoo Frankfurt
Zoologischer Garten Köln
Zoologischer Garten Rostock

$1,000 and above

Aalborg Zoo
Akron Zoological Park
Mark Barone
Cameron Park Zoo
Central Zoo Authority, India
Everland Zoological Garden
Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo
Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens
Little Rock Zoo
Los Angeles Zoo
Prudence P. Perry
Perth Zoo
Philadelphia Zoo
Phoenix Zoo
Riverbanks Zoo & Garden
Rotterdam Zoo
San Antonio Zoo
Taipei Zoo
Wassenaar Wildlife Breeding Centre
White Oak Conservation Center
Wildlife World Zoo & Aquarium
Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA)
Zoological Society of Wales, Welsh Mountain Zoo
Zoos South Australia

$500 and above

Abilene Zoological Gardens
Banham Zoo
Chris Byers & Kathy Vila
Cotswold Wildlife Park
David Traylor Zoo of Emporia
Kattegatcentret
Lisbon Zoo
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Racine Zoological Society
Safari de Peaugres
Tokyo Zoological Park Society
Topeka Zoo
Wellington Zoo
Zoo de la Palmyre

$250 and above

African Safari, France
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
The Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
El Paso Zoo
Lee Richardson Zoo
Lion Country Safari
Roger Williams Park Zoo
Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure
Sacramento Zoo
Steinhart Aquarium
Jacqueline & Nick Vlietstra
Zoo Heidelberg

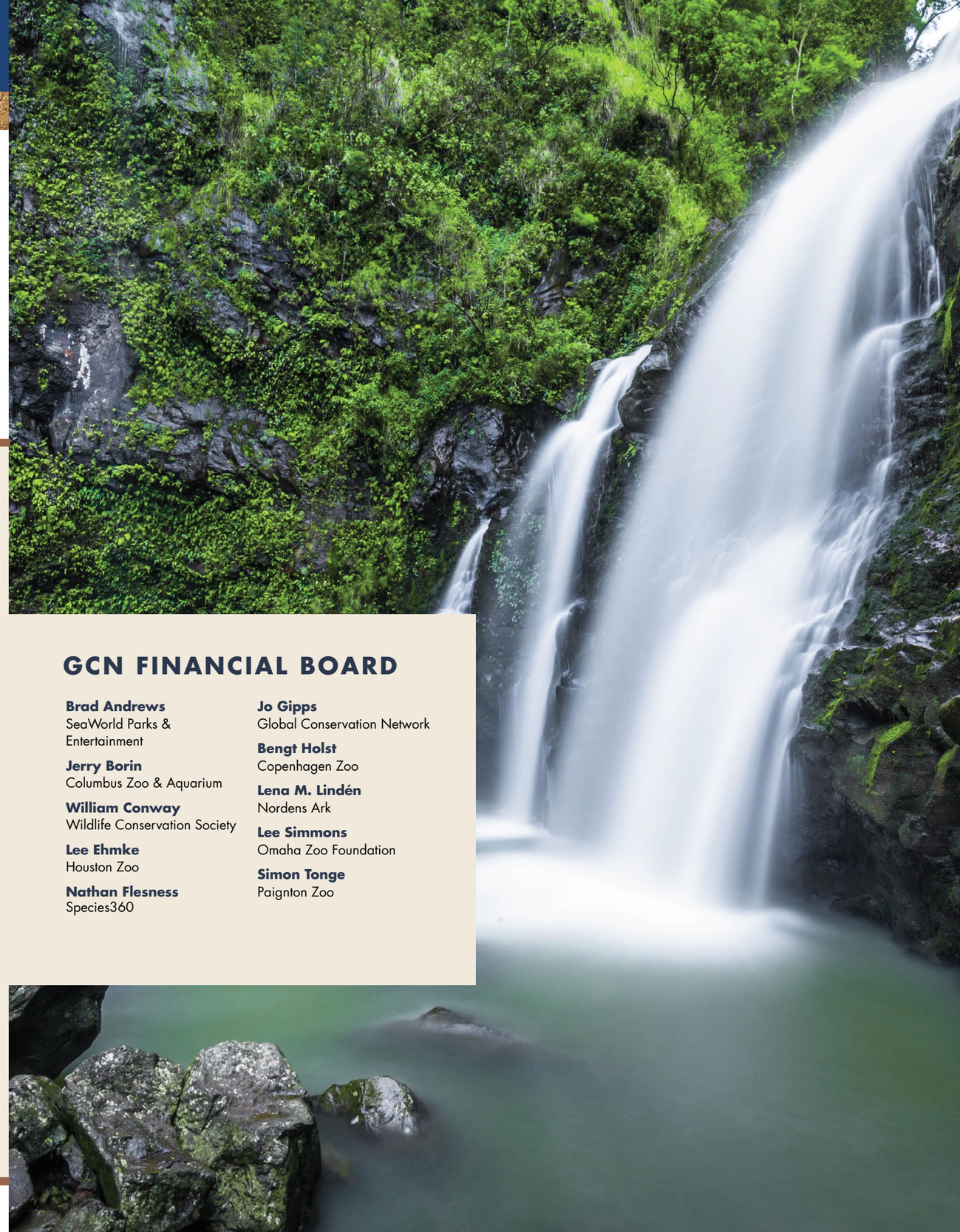
$100 and above

Apenheul Primate Park
Suzanne Gendron
Lincoln Children's Zoo
Steven J. Olson

**Denotes CBSG Chair Sponsor*

CBSG Regional Network Hosts

AMACZOOA & FUNDAZOO
Auckland Zoo
Copenhagen Zoo
Japan Wildlife Research Center
Pan-African Association of Zoos & Aquaria (PAAZA)
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Saint Louis Zoo
Taman Safari Indonesia
Zoo Outreach Organisation & WILD
Zoofari Mexico



GCN FINANCIAL BOARD

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Nathan Flesness
Species360

Jo Gipps
Global Conservation Network

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Nordens Ark

Lee Simmons
Omaha Zoo Foundation

Simon Tonge
Paignton Zoo

ABOUT CBSG

www.cbsg.org

The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) is a global volunteer network of 380 conservation professionals, coordinated by a headquarters staff of six and assisted by 10 Regional and National Networks on six continents. CBSG is dedicated to saving threatened species through effective conservation planning. CBSG is recognized and respected for its use of innovative, scientifically sound, collaborative processes that bring together people with diverse perspectives and knowledge to catalyze positive conservation change. CBSG is a Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and is supported by a non-profit organization incorporated under the name Global Conservation Network.

IUCN

www.iucn.org

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) brings together states, government agencies, and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique world partnership that seeks to influence, encourage, and assist societies throughout the world in conserving the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

SSC
Species Survival Commission

www.iucn.org/theme/species/about/species-survival-commission-ssc

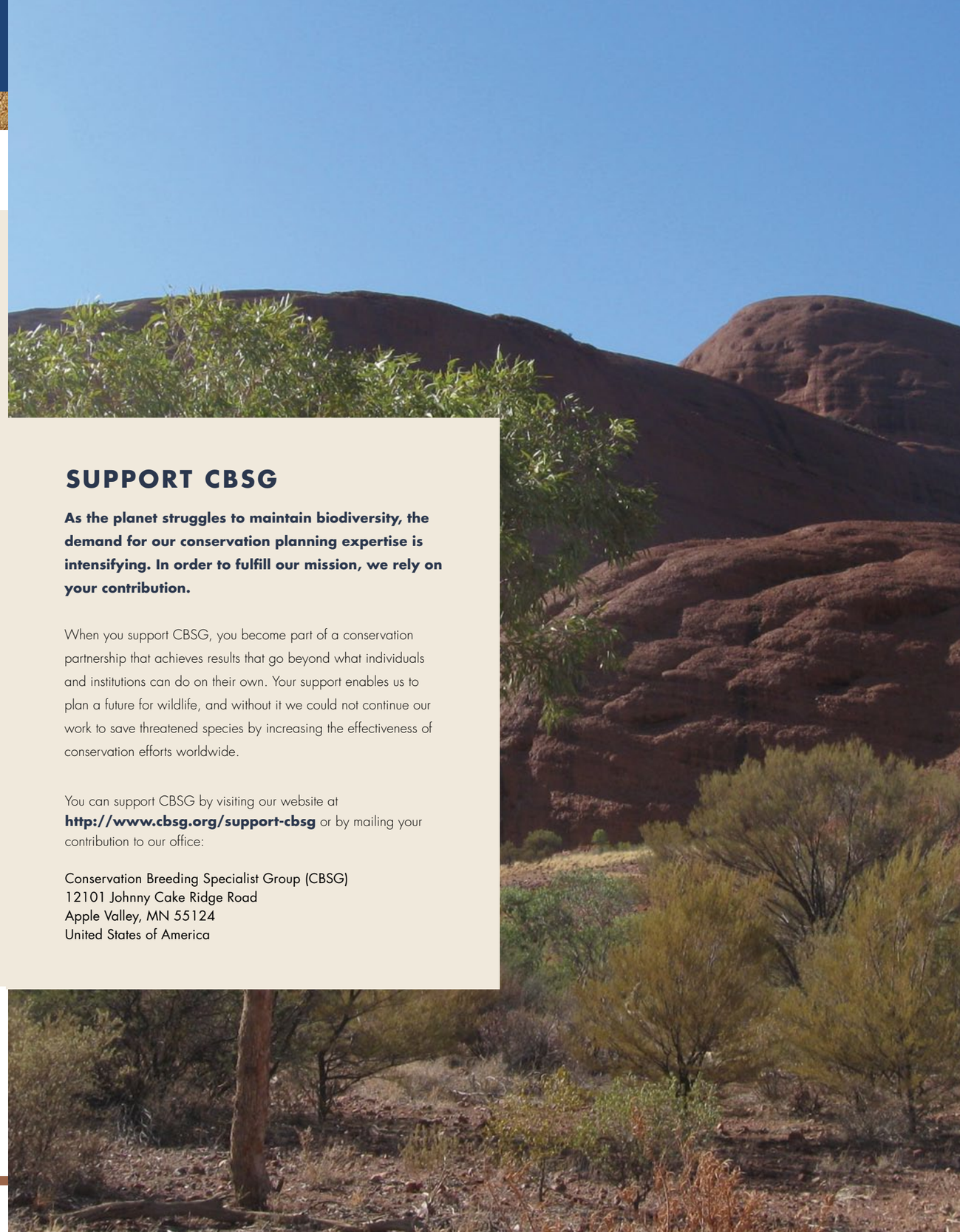
The Species Survival Commission is the largest of IUCN's six volunteer Commissions, with a global membership of 8,000 experts. The SSC advises IUCN and its members on the wide range of technical and scientific aspects of species conservation and is dedicated to securing a future for biodiversity.

History

Since its inception in 1979, CBSG has assisted in the development of conservation plans involving over 273 species through more than 750 workshops held in 75 countries. CBSG has collaborated with more than 200 zoos and aquariums, 180 conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 65 universities, 55 SSC Specialist Groups, 50 government agencies, and 35 corporations. By applying unique conservation tools and training others in their use, CBSG contributes to the long-term sustainability of endangered species and ecosystems around the globe.

Our Approach to Conservation

CBSG promotes effective and comprehensive conservation action by emphasizing the exchange of information across diverse groups to reach agreement on the important challenges facing humans and wildlife. Our interactive, participatory conservation planning workshops provide an objective environment, expert knowledge, and thoughtful group facilitation designed to systematically analyze problems and develop focused solutions using sound scientific principles. This process enables workshop participants to produce meaningful and practical management recommendations that generate political and social support for conservation action at all levels, from local communities to national political authorities. Rapid dissemination of these recommendations allows them to be used almost immediately to influence stakeholders and decision-makers, and maintains the momentum generated at the workshop.



SUPPORT CBSG

As the planet struggles to maintain biodiversity, the demand for our conservation planning expertise is intensifying. In order to fulfill our mission, we rely on your contribution.

When you support CBSG, you become part of a conservation partnership that achieves results that go beyond what individuals and institutions can do on their own. Your support enables us to plan a future for wildlife, and without it we could not continue our work to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide.

You can support CBSG by visiting our website at **http://www.cbsg.org/support-cbsg** or by mailing your contribution to our office:

Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG)
12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124
United States of America

2016 CBSG STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

Brad Andrews
SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, USA

Anne Baker
Amphibian Ark, USA

Jonathan Ballou
Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, USA

Evan Blumer
OsoMono, LTD, USA

Jeffrey Bonner
Saint Louis Zoo, USA

Amy Camacho
Africam Safari, Mexico

Luis Carrillo
Zoofari, Mexico

Dena Cator
IUCN Species Survival Commission, Switzerland

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Wildlife Conservation Society, USA

Mark Craig
Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort, UAE

Danny de Man
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Arnaud Desbiez
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Brazil

Gerald Dick
World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Switzerland

Lee Ehmke
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Susie Ellis
International Rhino Foundation, USA

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Species360, USA

Suzanne Gendron
Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong

Jo Gipps
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Woodland Park Zoo, USA

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European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Netherlands

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Leibniz-Institut für Zoo und Wildtierforschung, Germany

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Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark

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Nordens Ark

Dave Mallon
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Simón Bolívar Zoo, Costa Rica

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New Castle University, UK

Jo-Elle Mogerman
Shedd Aquarium, USA

Sanjay Molur
Zoo Outreach Organisation, India

Dave Morgan
Wild Welfare, UK

Phil Nyhus
Colby College, USA

Theo Pagel
Zoologischer Garten Köln, Germany

Paul Pearce-Kelly
Zoological Society of London, UK

Chelle Plassé
Disney's Animal Kingdom, USA

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Alex Rübel
Zoo Zürich, Switzerland

Rebecca Seal Soileau
US Army Corps of Engineers, USA

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Omaha Zoo Foundation, USA

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University of Oxford, WildCRU, UK

Stuart Strahl
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Kazutoshi Takami
JAZA/Osaka Municipal Tennoji Zoological Garden, Japan

Kris Vehrs
Association of Zoos and Aquariums, USA

Frances Westley
University of Waterloo, Canada

Robert Wiese
San Diego Zoo Global, USA

Jonathan Wilcken
Auckland Zoo, New Zealand

David Wildt
Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, USA

Kumiko Yoneda
Japan Wildlife Research Center, Japan

Members of the CBSG Strategic Committee in Puebla, Mexico.

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ending December 31, 2016

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support and Revenue:			
Contributions	US$783,598	US$116,376	US$899,974
Workshops and Contracts	232,967	–	232,967
Other Program Service Fees	53	–	53
Other Income	10,000	–	10,000
Investment Income	44,570	–	44,570
Net Assets Released from Restrictions:			
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	148,832	(148,832)	–
Satisfaction of Time Restrictions	20,665	(20,665)	–
Total Support and Revenue	1,240,685	(53,121)	1,187,564
Expense:			
Program Services	826,100	–	826,100
Support Services:			
Management and General	128,415	–	128,415
Fundraising	46,728	–	46,728
Total Support Services	175,143	–	175,143
Total Expenses	1,001,243	–	1,001,243
Changes in Net Assets	239,442	(53,121)	186,321
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	984,126	169,756	1,153,882
Net Assets - End of Year	US$1,223,568	US$116,635	US$1,340,203

Statement of Financial Position at December 31, 2016

ASSETS	
Current Assets:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	US$992,221
Grants Receivable	16,830
Pledges Receivable	1,516
Prepaid Expenses	13,566
Total Current Assets	1,024,133
Investments	407,762
Property - Net	7,465
Total Assets	US$1,439,360
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	$4,236
Accrued Salaries	6,440
Accrued Vacation	14,394
Funds Held for Others	38,801
Deferred Revenue	7,000
Due to Affiliated Organization	28,286
Total Current Liabilities	99,157
Net Assets:	
Unrestricted	1,223,586
Temporarily Restricted	116,635
Total Net Assets	1,340,203
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	US$1,439,360

Notes to 2016 Financial Statements

The finances to support the work of CBSG are held and managed by the Global Conservation Network (GCN), a USA 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. GCN had an overall surplus from operations of about US $186,321 for the year in 2016. Our unrestricted activity (general operations) accounted for an approximate US $239,442 increase, with a US $(53,121) decrease related to temporarily restricted activity. Deficit in temporarily restricted activity was primarily due to multi-year pledges being recorded as revenue in the year pledged and accordingly released from restriction each year. As of December 31, 2016, we had an unrestricted net asset reserve of US $1,223,568 or approximately 29 months of operating expenses. Two components make up the temporarily restricted net asset reserve at year end: about US $96,966 is for CBSG Chair support and US$19,669 is for 2017 CBSG commitments. The information on this page was taken from the 2016 audit. Copies of the full audit can be obtained by contacting the CBSG office.

CBSG HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Onnie Byers
Chair

Kathy Traylor-Holzer
Senior Program Officer

Elizabeth Townsend
Finance Officer/
Executive Assistant

Philip Miller
Senior Program Officer

Caroline Lees
Program Officer

Emily Wick
Communications Officer

CBSG REGIONAL NETWORKS

Our Regional Networks take CBSG tools and principles deep into the local institutions of a region or country, allowing stakeholders to adapt our proven conservation techniques to meet their own unique needs. We believe that this freedom to shape a Network according to the needs of the culture, society, and services of the individual country is a requirement for successfully addressing the sheer magnitude of the problem of biodiversity loss. Regional Networks acknowledge and appreciate the diversity in environment, culture and social systems, economic conditions, policy and governance, and philosophy in different countries and regions. CBSG Network team members organize activities local to their network and assist with other CBSG activities around the world.

CBSG Australasia
Co-Convenor: Caroline Lees
CBSG

Co-Convenor: Richard Jakob-Hoff
Auckland Zoo

CBSG Brasil
Convenor: Arnaud Desbiez
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

CBSG Europe
Convenor: Bengt Holst
Copenhagen Zoo

CBSG Indonesia
Convenor: Jansen Manansang
Taman Safari Indonesia

CBSG Japan
Convenor: Kumiko Yoneda
Japan Wildlife Research Center

CBSG Mesoamerica
Convenor: Yolanda Matamoros
Simón Bolívar Zoo

CBSG México
Convenor: Luis Carrillo
Zoofari

CBSG North America
Convenor: Anne Baker
Amphibian Ark

CBSG South Asia
Convenor: Sanjay Molur
Zoo Outreach Organisation

CBSG Southern Africa
Host: John Werth
PAAZA

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Eric Gevaert
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Matej Hudovernik
Ray Meibaum, Saint Louis Zoo
Oakdalecat
National Park Service
Pixelite
Iryna Rasko
Lyle Radford
Rebecca Spindler
Taviphoto
Kathy Traylor-Holzer
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WWF - Hong Kong

Highlighted Story Photos:

Chacoan peccary photos, p. 4: Michael Fraley; Silvia Saldívar and Anthony Giordano
Western ground parrot photos, p. 5: Abby Berryman, Parks and Wildlife; Sarah Comer, Parks and Wildlife—*Deploying ARUs in the Fitzgerald River National Park, where birds have not been heard since 2012.*
Blue-sided tree frog photos, p. 6: Eduardo Bolaños
Bellinger River snapping turtle photos, p. 7: Brett Vercoe; Shane Ruming
Orangutan photos, p. 8: Megan Elder

Special Acknowledgements

Linda Malek is a strategic planning, business development, and marketing specialist based in southern California. She currently donates her expertise to CBSG as we enhance stakeholder communication and increase targeted development efforts, and has directed EDG in the design of this Annual Report and other marketing and development tools.

Printing courtesy of B & G House of Printing, Inc.

Sustainability

We are proud to partner with B&G House of Printing in California to bring you our 2016 Annual Report. This report was printed on Neenah Environment Digital PC 100 White, which contains 100% PCW (post-consumer waste), is PCF (Processed Chlorine Free), Green Seal Certified, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified, and made with 100% renewable green electricity.

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