

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2019 CPSG ANNUAL MEETING

31 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER 2019
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA



Motivated. Inspired. Optimistic. These are just a few of the overwhelmingly positive words participants used to describe how they felt as we wrapped up our successful 2019 CPSG Annual Meeting, generously hosted by Fundacion TEMAIKEN. Sixty-eight people from 25 countries gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina to discuss and take action on a range of species conservation issues. Their positive energy is just what we need as we work to ensure that every species that needs a plan is covered by an effective, implemented plan.

The responsibility and authority for saving species generally lie with government agencies, so the theme of this year's Annual Meeting was "Engaging Governments in Species Conservation Planning." Participants heard stories of challenges and successes from a panel of experts working with and within government to save threatened species.

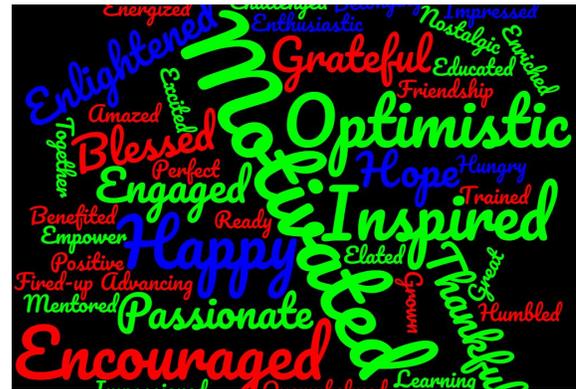
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They worked in small groups focusing on issues including aligning CPSG-led and government conservation plans; overcoming political and governmental obstacles faced by zoo-based programs; inspiring leaders to unite behind our shared responsibility to save species; and working beyond the professional conservation community to empower new voices to effectively drive change.



Attendees feelings captured in a word cloud at the end of the meeting.

Working group participants committed to tangible actions that will bring us closer to achieving our goal of covering every species that needs one with an effective, implemented plan — so we can change the future for threatened wildlife. We also engaged in deep thinking around each of the three pillars that will make up CPSG’s strategy for 2020 and beyond: 1) Shared Ownership; 2) Access to Knowledge; and 3) Inclusive Voices.

Though our strategic plan is still in development, the species conservation planning revolution it calls for has already begun. Mentees in the CPSG Planner Development Path (our selective and intensive 18-month training initiative to build species conservation planning capacity) shared with us the powerful impact their training and mentoring has on them, their work, and their ability to facilitate and plan for the recovery of threatened species. Staff from the newly-formed Species Survival Centre Brasil, a partnership of Parque das Aves, CPSG and the IUCN Red List, energized meeting attendees with their plans for addressing all aspects of the Assess-Plan-Act cycle.

This year, we recognized three members of the CPSG family for their invaluable contributions to CPSG. We presented Arnaud Desbiez with the CPSG Chair’s Citation of Excellence in recognition of his passionate leadership, creative transformation of CPSG Brazil, and consistent dedication to and promotion of CPSG’s conservation mission, values, and unique spirit. With tears of happiness, we toasted our brilliant Senior Program Officer Phil Miller on his 25th anniversary with CPSG. Our highest honor, [the Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation](#), was awarded to the incomparable Susie Ellis, Executive Director of the International Rhino Foundation and former CPSG (then-CBSG) program officer. As I said in my presentation, “Susie’s career has involved taking the best of CPSG and what she learned from Ulie and applying it to her work at Conservation International and now IRF to positively benefit the wild populations of the scores of endangered species to which she has dedicated her life. While Susie carries the best of CPSG with her, she shared the best of herself with us, and we are all better for it.”

Thanks to all of you who contributed to making this year's meeting such a tremendous success! We look forward to seeing you all in San Diego for CPSG's 40th anniversary celebration at the 2020 Annual Meeting hosted by San Diego Zoo Global!



Dr. Onnie Byers, CPSG Chair



Meeting participants listen to a presentation.



Mentors and mentees gather for dinner.



Toasting Phil Miller on his 25 years with CPSG

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Thongphakpee Ampika
 Brad Andrews
 Anne Baker
 Karen Bauman
 James Biggs
 Mansoor Al Jahdhami
 Kevin Buley
 Onnie Byers
 Joel Callicrate
 Taylor Callicrate
 Frands Carlsen
 Dalia Conde
 Jamie Copsey
 Mark Craig
 Carmel Croukamp
 Ma. Teresita Pineda, Jr.-David
 Alicia de la Colina
 Danny de Man
 Yara de de Melos Barros
 Arnaud Desbiez
 Candice Dorsey
 Radana Dungelova
 Nicole Duplaix

Maggie Dwire
 Claudine Glbson
 Jo Gipps
 Myfanwy Griffith
 Shelly Grow
 Sanna Hellstrom
 Mats Hoggren
 Bengt Holst
 Richard Jakob-Hoff
 Mike Jordan
 Jim Kao
 Lisa Kelley
 Lucy Kemp
 Bjarne Klausen
 Robert Lacy
 Caroline Lees
 Kristin Leus
 Fabiana Lopes Rocha
 Carlos Lopez Gonzalez
 Sonja Luz
 Robert Merz
 Lance Miller
 Philip Miller

Udo Nagel
 Keri Parker
 Subbiah Paulraj
 Roopali Raghavan
 Paul Rehak
 Oliver Ryder
 Karin Schwartz
 Christoph Schwitzer
 Lee Simmons
 Seth Stapleton
 Rosana Subira
 Sara Sullivan
 Gloria Svampa
 Biswajit F. G. Thakurta
 David Tonkyn
 Elizabeth Townsend
 Kathy Traylor-Holzer
 Eric Tsao
 Fran Webber
 Sally Wren
 Satya Prakash Yadav
 Martin Zordan



Members of our expert panel speak about engaging governments in species conservation planning.

How to Align CPSG Action Plans with Government Action Plans

Convenor: Roopali Raghavan

We began with a short introduction on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Participants had collectively worked in and were familiar with conservation planning processes of 18 governments from around the world. Most participants had either worked to develop action plans or were aware of them. Some participants from the USA said they were unaware of the CBD obligations as USA is not a signatory.

Potential benefits from aligning CPSGs plans with government action plans were discussed and identified as:

- Avoiding duplication,
- Increased government support for permits, funding etc.
- Buy in of all stakeholders

It was shared that alignment should not come at any cost / disadvantage to species conservation such as delays in action or political agendas skewing the planning process. Participants also discussed ways to facilitate alignment of action plans.

[Read the full report](#)



Roopali Raghavan enjoys a break.

Next Steps

- Continuous communication between conservationists and government to ensure better understanding of each others processes and plans. (All participants)
- Familiarise governments with CPSG processes and tools and train them in the same. (CPSG HQ & RRCs)
- Ensure that government is engaged at the right level to ensure alignment. (All participants)
- Approach governments though the CBD by providing planning process guidelines to be followed by all signatories. (CPSG HQ & IUCN Global Species Program).

Participants

Alicia de la Colina, Ampika Thongphakdee, Bengt Holst, Bettina Mahler, Bob Merz, Carl Traeholt, Christoph Schwitzer, Danny de Man, Frands Carlsen, Gloria Svampa, James Biggs, Jim Kao, Keri Parker, Kristin Leus, Lucy Kemp, S. Paulraj, Mansoor Al Jahdhami, Marcela Orozco, Martin Kowalewski, Mike Jordan, Nicole Duplaix, Onnie Byers, Phil Miller, Rosana Subira, Sally Wren, Sana Hellstrom, Shelly Grow, Silvana Pekar, Taylor Calligate, Urarikha Kongprom, S. P. Yadav, Yara Barros

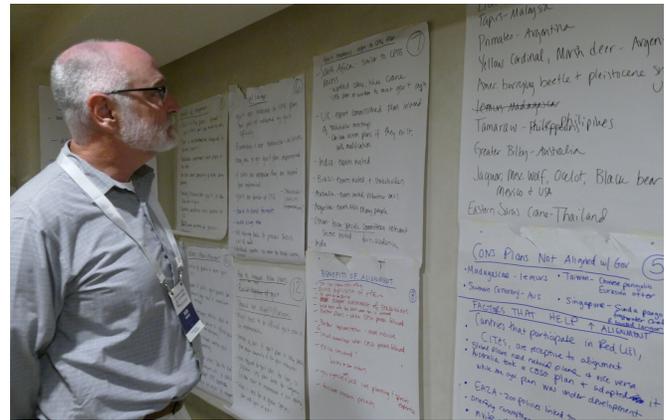
Overcoming Political & Governmental Obstacles to Increase the Impact of Zoo-based Programs in Latin America

Convenors: Karen Bauman, Martin Zordan

The majority of participants were from zoos and aquariums with others from government, academic and civil society. The group discussed political and governmental obstacles to impactful zoo-based programs, including: 1) high turnover rate of zoo and government staff (mostly outside the U.S., Europe and Australia); and 2) a lack of knowledge/acceptance that zoos are partners in conservation. We had a robust discussion about the challenges and opportunities these obstacles present, including country/regional differences.



Karen Bauman introduces the working group.



Bob Merz reads flipchart notes.

The group agreed this topic is global in scope (impacting some regions more than others), and is one on which CPSG is uniquely suited to encourage more discussion. This topic is crucial to other aspects of engaging governments in conservation, as the integration of zoo-based programs will be key to meeting upcoming CBD targets.

Next Steps

- Bring the topic to the international arena. Involve locals.
- Identify a global message about this topic and lobby through social media and other platforms.
- Consider a meeting focused on the lack of trust in science. Bring in experts from the social sciences to help develop strategies and messages to use during conservation planning work and provide training opportunities for members.
- Leverage the CPSG member network to create a profile of government partners with low turnover and/or who are receptive to partnering with zoos.

Participants

Joel Callicrate, June David, Radana Dungalova, Maggie Dwire, Carlos Lopez Gonzalez, Gabriele Gurtner, Kathy Traylor-Holzer, Oliver Ryder, Karin Schwartz, Sara Sullivan, Bjarne Klausen, Lorenzo von Fersen

Disease Risk Assessment Online Training Course Development

Convenors: Jamie Copsey, Richard Jakob-Hoff, Fabiana Lopes Rocha

This working group aimed to expand understanding of (i) the range of stakeholders with an interest in, knowledge of or influence over disease impacts on wildlife; (ii) current disease threats to the conservation of wildlife in participants' range countries; (iii) the attributes of, and technology available for, best practice online training delivery; and (iv) invite collaboration in the development of this online resource. The group was extremely productive over the two-hour period available. A combination of whole-group brainstorming and small group work addressed these questions, producing a comprehensive list of potential audiences, specific needs for each of those stakeholders and inputs on delivery strategies and content for the course. In addition, a number of people agreed to join the collaboration team.



Tango dancers at the WAZA opening ceremony.



Keri Parker writes notes on a flipchart.

Next Steps

- Produce a global survey to identify course audience and their DRA-specific needs.
- Identify case studies relevant to these audiences to produce content.
- Identify and budget for the technical development of the online course and look for sponsors.
- Follow up on suggestions for delivery with the Nature Conservancy.
- Add new members of the development team.
- Contact OIE (Wildlife Animal Health Interface), Wildlife Disease Association, Wildlife Health Specialist group and Ecohealth Alliance for partnership.

Participants

Alicia de la Conina, Ampika Thongphakdee, Anne Baker, Biswajit Guha, Bob Lacy, Candice Dorsey, Carlos Igor Calter, David Tonkin, Eric Tsao, Fabiana Lopes Rocha, Jamie Copsey, Karen Bauman, Karin Schwartz, Kathy Traylor-Holzer, Lee Simmons, Lucy Kemp, Maggie Dwire, Mansoor Hamed Al Jadhami, Marcela Orozco, Martin Kowalewski, S. P. Yadav, S. Paulraj, Sara Sullivan, Silvana Peker, Taylor Callicrate, Urarikha Kongprom

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CPSG Development & Fundraising: Supporting Implementation of the Strategic Plan

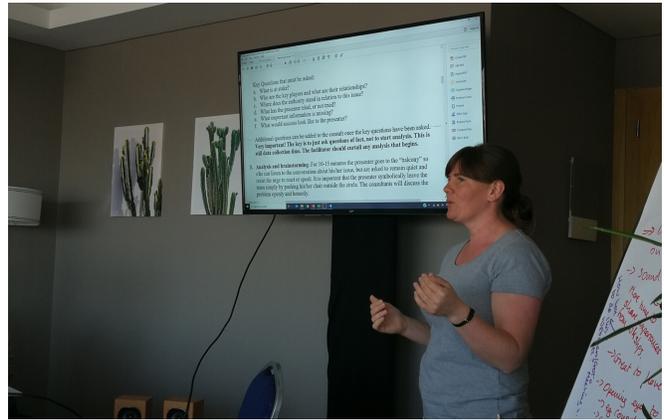
Convenors: Jo Gipps & Brad Andrews

Jo opened the session with a quick presentation covering the role of the Global Conservation Network; CPSG's five goals as part of its 2017-2020 strategic plan and the three pillars of its emerging strategy for beyond 2020; the Assess, Plan, Act cycle, Assess to Plan (A2P), and planning to act; CPSG's existing fundraising materials; and questions for discussion.



Nicole Duplax surveys working group notes.

[Read the full report](#)



Sally Wren gives a presentation.

Next Steps

- Carl to prepare a discussion paper on his radical funding proposal.
- Connect with regional zoo associations
- Develop a simple CPSG explanation presentation and/or document
- Develop a fully budgeted funding proposal for a 4-year Strategic Plan for CPSG Southeast Asia, and approach big grant-giving trusts and foundations there
- Create a comprehensive donor matrix
- Review and make more user-friendly CPSG website and social media
- CPSG Europe will explore opportunities to work with governments' international development contractors and advisers
- Improve impact reporting
- More personalized donor communications and more frequent acknowledgement/thanks

Participants

Brad Andrews, Kevin Buley, Jamie Copsey, Mark Craig, Claudine Gibson, Jo Gipps, Myfanwy Griffith, Lisa Kelley, Caroline Lees, Sonja Luz, Lance Miller, Lee Simmons, David Tonkyn, Elizabeth Townsend, Carl Traeholt, Eric Tsao, Fran Webber

One Global Wildlife Biobank Network to Support Global Species Targets Post 2020

Convenors: Oliver Ryder & Sonja Luz

The working group agreed that the preservation of living cell lines, gametes, and embryos will provide a critical resource for wildlife conservation, assisted reproduction, genomics, evolutionary biology, and wildlife medicine that revolutionises these fields. Used within a One Plan Approach, these resources can contribute to reducing species extinctions. In this regard the participants discussed some of the complexities and recognized the enormous task at hand for the development of an international network of cryo-banks under the umbrella of a Global Wildlife Biobank. The working group also recognized the need and tremendous potential of such a global effort, which would optimize and strengthen resources and expertise and grow a worldwide legacy of irreplaceable bio-materials that can be used in support of species conservation.

[Read the full report](#)

Participants

Eric Tsao, David Tonkyw, Maria Teresita Pineda, JR.-David, Kristin Leus, Brad Andrews, Spyadan, Candice Dorsey, James Biggs, Danny de Man, Gloria Svampa, Urarikha Kongprom, Ampika Thongphakdee, Bettina Mahler, Kathy Traylor-Holzer, Mansoor Aljahdham, Alicia de la Colina, Marcela Orozoo, Lisa Kelly, Bob Merz, Lucy Kemp, Sally Wren, Keri Parker, Nicole Duplaix, Dalia Conde, Maggie Dwire, Caroline Lees



Seth Stapleton participates in a breakout group.

Next Steps

- In April 2020, Taipei Zoo will host a CPSG-facilitated workshop to continue the discussion on the Global Wildlife Biobank Network and to kick-start a potential South-East Asian arm of this Global Wildlife Biobank network. Follow up on this with those CPSG workshop participants that indicated interest
- Continue to raise more awareness of the importance of biobanking in species conservation and motivate discussions on this through various CPSG/OPA processes (i.e. in ex situ needs assessments, ICAPs etc.)
- Follow up on the development of tools to manage and integrate banked specimens into population management programs
- Update on progress with this in upcoming CPSG meetings
- Follow up on formation of IUCN Biobanking Taskforce (Sonja) and promote this and the wider concept at the World Conservation Congress
- Follow up on IUCN Motion Draft with all participants to seek more input on improving the paragraphs on biobanking
- Develop a global data network platform led by Species 360

Shared Ownership: Inspiring Leaders to Unite Behind Our Shared Responsibility to Save Species

Convenors: Caroline Lees

This working group considered doing what we can to: 1) Secure a strong species target for species under the new Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) framework; 2) Secure commitment to a dedicated programme of work for species under the CBD; and 3) Build stronger in-country networks to deliver on these. In the first part of this session we discussed the recent Abu Dhabi Declaration (which calls for these three things) and how we might use this to secure government support in the lead up to CBD in 2020. We mapped existing CPSG connections with national CBD focal points and IUCN National Committees as a starting point for mobilising a coordinated approach. In the second part of this session we captured information from those present on 1) existing involvement with their government's efforts to Assess, Plan and Act; 2) current obstacles to greater involvement; and 3) what a more productive relationship could look like and what it might take to achieve it.

[Read the full report](#)



Sanna Hellstrom and Caroline Lees strategize during a working group.

Next Steps

- Develop brief, additional material and talking points related to the Abu Dhabi Declaration, to help members of the CPSG network discuss this initiative with CBD focal points and/or IUCN National Committee representatives, with the aim of increasing awareness and support for the initiative.
- Circulate materials and talking points to this network, with a clear explanation of what is being asked of everyone.
- Collate the responses to the three questions posed and factor major themes into the section of the Program of Work for Species document that CPSG is responsible for.

Participants

Brad Andrews, Yara Barros, James Biggs, Kevin Buley, Onnie Byers, Frands Carlsen, Ma. Teresita P. David Jr., Radana Dungalova, Nicole Duplaix, Claudine Gibson, Jo Gipps, Myfanwy Griffith, Sanna Hellstrom, Bengt Holst, Jim Kao, Lisa Kelley, Bjarne Klausen, Kristin Leus, Sonja Luz, Danny de Man, Phil Miller, Keri parker, Roopali Raghavan, Christophe Schwitzer, Gloria Svampa, Rosana Subira, Carl Traeholt, Sally Wren, Martin Zordan,

Access to Knowledge: Transforming Conservation Decision Making with Open & Accessible Critical Knowledge & Resources

Convenors: Phil Miller, Bob Lacy

The main topic was how to harness data about human activities to understand how these factors might affect species extinction risk and to better include these impacts in conservation planning. There are core data that will be needed by all planning workshops (land use patterns, climate, economic trends, human demography), and there are data that will be needed specifically for unique projects (bush meat consumption rates or wildlife trade statistics, for example).



Arnaud Desbiez is honored for his work with CPSG.

[Read the full report](#)



Mentors and mentees of the Planner Development Path

The group brainstormed what types of core data might be needed to evaluate impacts of human population on species. Several sources of data were identified, and actions were identified to begin investigating how to access and use these data sources.

Next Steps

- Selection of a test case to work through identification, analysis, and use of core and specific data streams in the species planning process
- Research availability of grant or assistance programs from National Geographic, Microsoft AI for Conservation, or ESRI to help CPSG use these data
- Explore the availability of social media trends data to identify or quantify wildlife trade activity

Participants

Nicole Duplaix, Bob Lacy, David Tonkyn, Kathy Traylor-Holzer, Lee Simmons, Taylor Callicrate, Joel Callicrate, Sally Wren, Mike Jordan, Karin Schwartz, Oliver Ryder, Carlos Lopez Gonzales, Dalia Conde, Anne Baker, Karen Bauman, Eric Tsao, Lance Miller, Sara Sullivan

Inclusive Voices: Working Beyond the Professional Conservation Community to Empower New Voices to Effectively Drive Change

Convenors: Jamie Copsey, Richard Jakob-Hoff

We began with a short presentation summarizing the San Diego planning meeting in which the concept of broadening CPSG's target groups for species conservation planning support to new audiences was introduced. 'Indigenous People' (IPs) are one such group that CPSG often includes in its workshop processes without them being a core focus around which the planning process is designed. IPs manage more than 25 percent of the world's land surface and are recognized as a member of IUCN. We considered the possible opportunities and risks of including IPs as a specific, target audience, as well as identifying possible contacts and case studies that we could turn to, to inform our thinking. The collective view of the working group was one of cautious optimism, encouraging us to move in this new direction but with great care and sensitivity, building on the work of others rather than reinventing wheels.



Jim Kao talks about his experiences in the Planner Development Path.

Next Steps

- Follow-up on the opportunity to develop a single species-focused 'sustainable harvesting' plan within the Maori community.
- From the list of ideas coming from working group participants, identify specific contacts and connect with organisations working in this space to inform this strategic pillar.
- Develop a draft process to add to our 'Preparing to Plan' stage designed to better enable IP groups coming to specific workshops to be prepared themselves for the process.
- Collate case studies from the RRCs engaged with IP groups to understand how planning 'fits' within the work.

Read the full report

Participants

Bob Mertz, Mansoor Al Jahdhami, Biswajit Guha, Alicia de la Colina, Lucy Kemp, Marcela Orozoco, Silvana Peker, Martin Kowalewski, Carl Traeholt, Jim Kao, Keri Parker, Jamie Copsey, Richard Jakob-Hoff

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CPSG
12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124-8151 USA
001-952-997-9800
cpsg.org
office@cpsg.org

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Fabiana Lopes Rocha, CPSG
Fran Webber, CPSG



The aligning plans working group