

CBSG Brasil 2015-2016

CBSG Brasil was founded in 2004. CBSG Brasil is not based in any institution and is run voluntarily by four members with the support of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. Members are a wildlife biologist, a veterinarian, a GIS expert and a zoo professional. Each member works for a different institution. The convenor, Arnaud Desbiez, is the Conservation Manager for Latin America at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) based in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul State, Brazil. Fabiana Lopes Rocha has a post-doctoral position at FioCruz, Rio de Janeiro City, Rio de Janeiro State. Katia Ferraz is a professor at ESALQ, Piracicaba, São Paulo, and Yara Barros is the technical director of the Parque das Aves in Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná.

Chacoan peccary (*Catagonus wagneri*) conservation planning workshop

In early 2016, 31 representatives from Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia, representing various organizations, met in Asuncion, Paraguay to create a conservation plan for the Chacoan peccary, or Taguá. The Chacoan peccary (*Catagonus wagneri*) is an endangered species that inhabits the thorn forests of the Gran Chaco of Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina. The situation of this rare peccary is deteriorating rapidly due to habitat destruction and over-hunting.

The first day of the meeting was spent reviewing the species status and distribution, and running population viability and habitat suitability analyses. In the following days, participants identified a vision for the conservation plan and the main threats to the species. They split into three working groups, where they isolated problems and determined goals and actions to address main threats including habitat loss, hunting, and lack of knowledge. Potential roles for captive breeding programs were also identified. The workshop report is currently in preparation.

Mariana Altrichter, co-Chair of the IUCN SSC Peccary Specialist Group said, “We recognized that many underlying causes of the major conservation challenges are unsurmountable and beyond our capacities to address. However, we do believe that we can make positive changes and increase the chances of survival for the species and for the Chaco ecological integrity. We trust that the governments of the three range countries will incorporate our results in their planning process as these are based on the best available scientific research and created by a representative group of stakeholders.”

The workshop was organized by Mariana Altrichter and Harald Beck (Chairs of the IUCN SSC Peccary Specialist Group); Alberto Yanosky (Guyra Executive Director), Arnaud Desbiez, (Convenor CBSG Brasil/IUCN Peccary Specialist Group Red List Authority), and Juan Campos (Tagua Project Field Coordinator CCCI). CBSG Brasil facilitated the workshop and Kristin Leus (Copenhagen Zoo/CBSG Europe) and Katia Ferraz (CBSG Brasil/Wildlife Ecology, Management and Conservation Lab (LEMaC, Forest Science Department - ESALQ/USP)) led the population viability and habitat suitability analysis.

The workshop was sponsored by Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Sub-committee, CBSG, World Land Trust, Secretaría del Ambiente (SEAM), and Copenhagen Zoo.