

# CBSG UPDATE



## Member Announcements

June 2009

### Ulysses S. Seal Award Nominations

CBSG Members are invited to nominate candidates for the Ulysses S Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation. Please remember to submit your nominations to [Onnie Byers](#) via email or post by 1 August 2009. To download the nomination form, [click here](#).

### CBSG Annual Meeting

The 2009 CBSG Annual Meeting will be held 1-4 October in St. Louis, MO, USA. This year's conference will include working groups on a variety of current topics, including:

- Species conservation planning approaches
- Conservation medicine and disease risk tools
- Developing a framework for how captive elephant management can best serve conservation of the species
- *Ex situ* techniques for plant conservation
- *Ex situ* population management, including issues of population sustainability, group management, and mate choice in conservation breeding programs
- Global Cheetah *in situ* planning
- Conservation breeding in Asian zoos

We'd love to hear from you if you have items you would like to see added to the agenda or would like to convene a working group.

The conference will begin on Thursday, 1 October 2009 with an evening icebreaker and will conclude with a farewell dinner/WAZA icebreaker and the presentation of the 2009 Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation on Sunday, 4 October 2009. For more information or to register online, visit: [www.stlzoo.org/cbsg2009](http://www.stlzoo.org/cbsg2009)



## Recent CBSG Projects

### Climate Change Metamodeling Project

As an extension to our larger metamodeling research initiative, we are now moving into exploring how to incorporate models of climate change into our endangered species risk assessment tools. We recently met with Dr. Barry Brook ([www.bravenewclimate.com](http://www.bravenewclimate.com)) and Dr. Corey Bradshaw ([www.conservationbytes.com](http://www.conservationbytes.com)) from the University of Adelaide, two experts on climate change and its implications for wildlife population viability. During this meeting at the Brookfield Zoo near Chicago, Barry and Corey discussed tools for climate change modeling and the types of information that emerge from these complex models. We identified a potential collaborative opportunity with biologists that are developing climate-driven predictive habitat dynamics models. In our vision for climate metamodeling, data describing future landscape dynamics in the presence of changing climatic conditions will be read by metamodeling software as drivers that define habitat availability and connectivity, as well as factors that can directly influence wildlife population demographics. These drivers will then interact with VORTEX-type population viability models as a way to estimate how extinction risk is influenced by future climate. We are in the early stages of building a metamodel for swamp buffalo in northwestern Australia that are impacted by bovine tuberculosis in an increasingly harsh climate.

## **Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership Program Review**

One of our newest projects involves North America's whooping crane. Specifically, the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) is trying to establish a second migratory population of the species, complementing the existing population that breeds in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park and resides along the Gulf Coast in the winter. The newest Eastern Migratory Population (EMP) is to nest in Wisconsin and winter in Florida. However, the program has encountered significant difficulties in establishing a breeding population in Wisconsin. Moreover, the diverse group of organizations that make up the Partnership results in a complex decision-making structure that impedes progress on species conservation. To address these difficulties, the Partnership has requested an external review of all aspects of their operations so that they can establish an EMP and, by extension, improve the prospects for range-wide recovery. CBSG has been asked to chair this five-member review panel, which includes experts on crane biology and ecology, captive breeding for recovery, and conservation program evaluation.



## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **International Mammalogical Congress**

The CBSG Brasil team, Arnaud Desbiez, Patricia Medici and Leandro Jerusalinsky will attend the International Mammalogical Congress in Mendoza, Argentina on 11-14 August. Meetings with chairs and members of various specialist groups, including anteaters, canids, peccary and deer, will take place. The team will be presenting a poster about CBSG. We hope to see some of you there.

### **Tanzanian Chimpanzee Action Planning Workshop**

We are continuing to organize a national action planning workshop for the chimpanzees of Tanzania, currently scheduled for 19-22 October 2009. Through detailed discussions with biologists who study the species in Tanzania, we have redirected our workshop focus on those chimps that reside outside protected areas, as these populations have not received the same level of attention as the more recognized populations in Gombe and Mahale National Parks. A detailed treatment of chimps in unprotected habitat will make a major contribution to a more holistic and inclusive management plan that is to be produced by the Tanzanian government.



## **Continuing Projects**

### **Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Update**

Work continues on developing integrated models of Rio Grande river hydrology and silvery minnow demography, in order to assist the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other stakeholder domains in developing effective population management strategies for the endangered species. Our goal is to complete the analytical phases of the project by the end of summer 2009 so that final project reports will be written by the end of this year.





## **Other Announcements**

CBSG Member and Minnesota Zoo employee Fred Swengel has spent the last two decades researching a very interesting and relevant topic that is, those taxa that are restricted to one country and dependent for survival on the concern and ability of that country to protect them, or at least not destroy them. Fred has just uploaded his work onto a website : <http://Intreasures.com/>