

CBSG UPDATE



Member Updates

April 2011

CBSG Annual Meeting

Registration for the 2011 CBSG Annual Meeting in Prague is now open!

The Annual Meeting will be held 29 September - 2 October 2011 at the Hotel Intercontinental in Prague, Czech Republic. More information is available through the CBSG website and Portal, and working group topics will be announced soon.

[More Information](#)

[Register Here!](#)

[Book Accommodation](#)

We look forward to seeing you in Prague!



Search for New CBSG Chair

As many of you have already heard, CBSG's chairman, Dr. Bob Lacy has decided that it is the right time to begin the process of finding the next chair for CBSG. Bob has served as CBSG chair for eight years, and will continue to work with us in other roles. He intends to devote his energy to various projects, including new approaches to modeling threats to species, and improvements in tools used for captive population management.

We welcome nominations for a new CBSG chair. You may download the formal request for nominations [here](#).

Using the CBSG Portal

Updating Your Profile on the CBSG Portal

Your profile can be viewed by other users of the CBSG Portal, so it's important that the information there is up to date.

[Click here](#) to edit your profile, including your contact information, a photo, and your professional expertise.

Please check and [update your email](#) on the portal so others can reach you.

Re-setting Your Password

If you have lost your password for the CBSG Portal, [click here](#) to go to password recovery.



Recent CBSG Projects

International Studbooks and Global Population Management Discussions

Several CBSG HQ and regional network staff participated in two one-day discussions organized by WAZA and held at the WAZA Executive Office in Gland, Switzerland on 3-4 April. The first workshop focused on the future of International Studbooks, followed by a second meeting to discuss global collection planning and inter-regional population management. These meetings were bracketed by mid-year meetings of WAZA's Committee for Population Management (CPM), CBSG's Strategic Committee, and the ISIS Board, to take advantage of the gathered body of expertise. The results of these discussions will be reported at the 2011 WAZA Annual Conference in Prague in October, which will have zoo population sustainability as an overarching theme.

Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis Handbook Development Workshop

For more than a decade, CBSG has been collaborating with specialists around the world in developing a “toolkit” for the zoo and wildlife medicine communities to assist in evaluating risks associated with disease introduction and transmission under a variety of different scenarios. The document that has emerged from this collaboration, titled “Animal Movements and Disease Risk: A Workbook”, is now in its 5th edition and has been used by conservation medicine professionals in many countries. However, the book is now out of date and in need to a revision. Auckland Zoo veterinarian Richard Jakob-Hoff of CBSG Australasia will coordinate this effort, with his colleagues in Australia and New Zealand leading an international group of experts to create an even more valuable resource for animal health specialists worldwide.

To launch this new effort CBSG Australasia co-conveners Richard Jakob-Hoff and Caroline Lees hosted a meeting of more than 20 wildlife health specialists 4-7 April at the New Zealand Center for Conservation Medicine. Significantly, high-ranking representatives from most of the Species Survival Commission’s other interdisciplinary specialist groups ,Wildlife Health, Reintroduction, and Invasive Species – were also in attendance.

The primary goals for this meeting were:

- To obtain consensus agreement on the vision and goals for the overall project;
- To reach consensus on the structure of the new Disease Risk Analysis (DRA) Handbook to be created by the group;
- To map relevant sections from the existing Workbook to the new Handbook; and
- To collaboratively develop a plan for how to complete the new Handbook and to ultimately develop associated training materials.



Photo: Auckland Zoo

In order to bring the workshop participants together before the actual meeting, and to complete important work milestones before the April gathering, workshop organizers created a project website filled with valuable background information on the existing Workbook, a document library of relevant literature, and a space where workshop participants could write reviews of specific sections of the existing Workbook. In addition, the organizers set up a series of “virtual workshops”, using web-based collaboration tools, where workshop participants could come together to exchange information, discuss important issues as preparation for the April workshop, and even give online presentations to communicate their ideas and positions. This virtual meeting environment was critically important to the success of the Auckland workshop, as many people had participated in the pre-workshop online meetings and were therefore familiar with each other before ever meeting in person. Moreover, participants were able to complete important tasks before heading to Auckland, thereby making the face-to-face time even more productive.

The Auckland participants drafted official vision and goal statements for the overall project, and completed a detailed outline of the proposed new DRA Handbook. This new Handbook will feature a more cohesive structure and consistent theme, and will be focused on an updated set of tools and processes that will add considerable rigor to the mechanics of disease risk analysis in wildlife conservation programs.

The new Handbook is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2011, with the construction of training materials to begin in 2012.



Upcoming Meetings

Wildlife Welfare and Conservation: Educator Training Workshop

A two-day training for selected conservation and animal welfare practitioners and educators from South India will be conducted in Coimbatore. It will include presentations explaining the close linkage of wildlife welfare and wildlife conservation. Also covered will be evaluation techniques and a range of active learning teaching techniques. The workshop sponsor is Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW). Resource material from a special issue of UFAW's Journal Animal Welfare on conservation and welfare, and also from the CBSG Working Group on Conservation and Animal Welfare conducted at the 2010 Annual meeting will be used to develop educational material.

Sierra Leone Chimpanzee PHVA

The second largest wild population of the Endangered western chimpanzee, *Pan troglodytes verus*, lives in Sierra Leone. More than one half of the country's 5,500 chimpanzees live outside protected areas, and populations are declining due to a variety of threats, including hunting for bushmeat and habitat loss/conversion. CBSG has been invited by the Sierra Leone Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security to conduct a PHVA workshop in concert with the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary and IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group. This PHVA will be held 24-27 May in Freetown, and will build upon the recently completed National Chimpanzee Census Project and will lead to the development of a National Chimpanzee Conservation Action Plan for Sierra Leone.

Human/Elephant Coexistence Workshops

Human/Elephant Coexistence Educator Training is designed to teach positive attitudes and foster behavioral change of human beings in relation to elephants, so that instances of injury and death of humans and animals can be brought down. A series of three workshops in Tamil language will be conducted in rural areas near to Coimbatore. Participants will be village headmen, farmers, and teachers, who live and/or work in or near conflict areas and others. This is a uniquely successful training process that addresses different species and issues by using many activity-based sessions. Whereas most teaching in South Asia is primarily didactic, these workshops are activity based. The sponsoring organization is International Elephant Foundation, USA.

