



Recent CBSG Projects

January 2011

Workshop on Intensive Management of Populations

On 6-9 December CBSG convened a Workshop on the Intensive Management of Populations for Species Conservation hosted by and with support from the San Diego Zoo with additional support from the Columbus Zoo. Forty participants from 12 countries spanning 8 regional zoo associations (AZA, EAZA, ZAA, JAZA, SEAZA, SAZARC, AMACZOOA, ALPZA) as well as from WAZA, ISIS, CBSG, Amphibian Ark and the Botanic Gardens Conservation International attended the workshop, which developed in response to working group discussions on *ex situ* population management at the 2008, 2009 and 2010 CBSG Annual Meetings. Fueled by increasing concern regarding the sustainability of zoo populations and the potential for these populations to contribute to species conservation, participants sought to identify strategies and new ways of thinking to catalyze intensive population management into an effective tool for species conservation.



Plenary presentations summarized the history of population management, current status and issues of concern, and potential new strategies and philosophies under consideration. A draft vision statement and primary goals were developed that supported a refocusing on species conservation and recognized that population management occurs over a broad continuum of intensity, scale, location and investment of resources. Working groups developed goals, objectives and actions related to species assessment and prioritization, program design, different types of management programs, management of multiple interacting populations, integration of stakeholders and management activities in species conservation, and promoting a paradigm shift in transforming zoos into conservation centers. Many projects, workshops, activities, tools, databases, and population management efforts were recommended, many of which already have been initiated. The final report of this workshop will serve as a guiding reference upon which future population management innovations may build.

Lake Titicaca Frog Conservation Strategy Workshop

Lake Titicaca frogs are the world's largest aquatic frog, endemic to their namesake lake that straddles Peru and Bolivia. On the Peruvian side local people harvest frogs and transport them to markets in Lima, Cusco, Arequipa and Chile where customers consume them in a frog "shake" that they believe to cure a variety of ailments, including bronchitis and asthma or increase mental clarity and virility. To analyze this situation and build a Conservation Strategy for the species and its habitat, the Conservation Department of the Denver Zoological Foundation organized a workshop in Puno, Perú on 13-15 December 2010. Yolanda Matamoros from CBSG Mesoamerica facilitated this meeting, and 39 people, representing 14 institutions and 4 countries attended the workshop. CBSG Mesoamerica is currently coordinating with participants to draft a report of the meeting.



SAZARC Annual Conference

The 10th Annual Conference/Training of South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation focused on “Emergency Response Protocols for 21st Century Crises in Zoos, Climate Change, Emerging Diseases, and Terrorism”. The CBSG South Asia/Reintroduction Specialist Group meeting was combined with special presentations. Dr. Wendy Foden, IUCN Species Program and Dr. Mark Irwin, State University of New York, were the resource persons. Participants from 7 South Asian countries enjoyed the training and tours around Chitwan National Park. There was also a training session on climate change for public education. The program hosts were the Central Zoo and National Trust for Nature Conservation. Zoo Outreach Organisation hosts the SAZARC Secretariat, plans the training and conference and raises funds from numerous sponsors from the western zoo community.

Third Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium and Training

This symposium covered topics related to conservation through community involvement, assessment of priority areas and community initiatives at the local level, which have global conservation impact. Also included were tools for species status assessment, public education and training in moth and butterfly identification as well as field research methods. The program was organized by IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group and ZOO/CBSG South Asia in collaboration with Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India and Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, Hong Kong who were also sponsors along with Dept. of Science and Technology, New Delhi & Woodward Family, Hong Kong.



Jaguar Conservation Planning Workshop, Part I: Population Viability Analysis

CBSG has been contracted by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service to conduct a conservation planning workshop process for the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) as part of the Service’s recovery planning process for the species. Jaguars are occasionally seen in the southwestern United States, with animals from larger populations in Sonora, Mexico, dispersing northward into suitable habitat in the southern United States. The first phase of this project consisted of a PVA workshop, with members of the Recovery Team’s Technical Subgroup discussing the ecology and demography of jaguars and the habitat that defines the northern portion of the species’ range. Collaborators from the Wildlife Conservation Society are working with CBSG and CBSG Mexico on this project, providing expertise in landscape-scale analysis of species observation records and habitat suitability modeling through the use of GIS tools. This collaboration will provide insight into the nature and distribution of suitable jaguar habitat in northern Mexico and southern Arizona and New Mexico, and use the spatial analysis to inform metapopulation models of jaguar demography to assess the feasibility of jaguar population expansion in northern Mexico and population establishment in the United States.

This effort will be followed by a PHVA workshop in early March, where a broader array of Recovery Team members and other important stakeholders will use the results of the PVA and other data to advise the Fish & Wildlife Service on optimal strategies for recovery and management of northern jaguar populations. More information on this ongoing project will be shared in future updates.



Upcoming Meetings

Wildlife Welfare and Conservation: Educator Training Workshop

A 2-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.

IUCN Global Reptile Assessment/Reptile CAMP

A workshop is being organized for late February, with IUCN, ZOO and CBSG South Asia, to assess 240 species of reptiles native to the Western Ghats and Southern India. Information on 140 species has been compiled on the Species Information Service of IUCN and maps have been generated. The workshop is sponsored by Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund.

Disease Risk Assessment (DRA) Tool Development Workshop

An international workshop, hosted by CBSG Australasia and Auckland Zoo, New Zealand is planned for 4 – 7 April 2011. The workshop will bring together a group with a wide range of expertise in the development and application of risk analysis tools, to make a significant contribution towards a collaborative revision of the current CBSG DRA Manual (published 2002). The aim is to create an updated wildlife DRA resource based on best available science and technology that serves the needs of the global wildlife conservation community and is the center piece of a global DRA training program for wildlife conservation professionals.



Pre-translocation health screening of a juvenile takahe, Porphyrio mantelli. The DRA toolkit provides conservation managers with a range of tools to assess and manage disease risks in situ as well as those associated with wildlife translocations.

Photo: Auckland Zoo

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.



Western Ghats Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment II

IUCN and ZOO/CBSG South Asia are collaborating to conduct Red List assessments of Western Ghats freshwater ecosystem, which includes fishes, mollusks, odonates and aquatic plants. A total of 1200 species occur in the Western Ghats and drainages, mostly restricted to peninsular India. The Part I assessment, conducted on 7-11 October 2010, covered 490 species and Part II in late January will assess an additional 400 species. The project sponsor is the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund.



Upcoming Modeling in Brazil

Several exciting projects are being developed in Brazil this year. The network will host typical PVA workshops and some work focused on small modeling working groups. In 2011, CBSG Brasil will be involved in developing models to evaluate:

- The impact of mining on giant otters (*Pteronura brasiliensis*),
- A reintroduction program for populations of the endemic red-billed curassow (*Crax blumenbachii*) in the Atlantic forest, and
- The impact of cattle ranching on a particular tree species (*Acrocomia aculeata*) that the hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) uses to build its nest.

CBSG headquarters has been helping CBSG Brasil with these models, and we look forward to sharing results from these exciting projects during the year. Furthermore we have also

been contacted to continue applying the model

developed during the 2009 jaguar PHVA, for populations in the Brazilian Cerrado biome. Finally, two carnivore PVA workshops for puma and bush dog are being planned for 2011.



Giant Otters
Photo: Carolina Ribas



Recent Publication

Eastern Ghats Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Project Report Published

The Report of the Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment of Eastern Ghats, India has been published. In 2009 ZOO/CBSG South Asia collaborated with IUCN and its partners in assessing the status of selected groups of the Eastern Himalayan freshwater ecosystems. A total of 1,073 freshwater species of fishes, mollusks, and dragonflies and damselflies currently known in the Eastern Himalaya region were assessed. The assessments of all three groups from the region can be found at <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/RL-2010-001.pdf>. The project sponsor was the MacArthur Foundation.