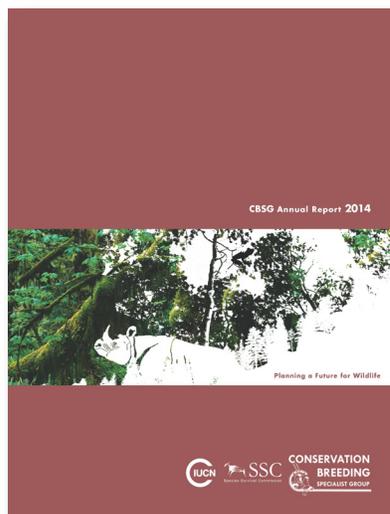


Announcements

2014 CBSG Annual Report

We are proud to share with you our 2014 Annual Report. This report highlights the dedicated work by CBSG staff and regional network teams in 2014, and communicates our deep gratitude to the donors, workshop sponsors, and network of CBSG members who make our work possible. Visit <http://www.cbsg.org/content/annual-report-2014> to read and download.



Late Registration for CBSG Meeting Until 10 October

Late registration for the 2015 CBSG Annual Meeting in Al Ain, UAE is still open! This registration period will remain open until 10 October. Register at <http://www.alainzoo2015.ae/cbsg.php>. More information about the meeting is available at <http://www.cbsg.org/latest-news/2015-cbsg-annual-meeting>.

Species Conservation Planning Workshop Summaries

In our continuing effort to increase the impact of our work and to move from recommendation to implementation, CBSG introduces our Species Conservation Planning Workshop Summaries. These summaries present, in an easy-to-read format, key goals and recommendations as determined and prioritized by the workshop participants. Each goal in the summary links to the corresponding page in the full workshop report online. The contact information for the workshop point person is provided so that interested individuals or organizations wanting to contribute to completing particular actions can follow up directly. Going forward, a workshop summary will be created following each workshop. These summaries will allow for broader distribution of workshop results and connect species conservation actors with the actions needed to save threatened species.

Visit <http://www.cbsg.org/new-initiatives/species-conservation-planning-workshop-summaries> to view all summaries produced so far.

CBSG eUpdate: August 2015

Contributors: John Houck, Caroline Lees, Kathy Taylor-Holzer, Martín Zordán

Editor: Emily Wick

Thanks to our translators, Jean-Luc Berthier and Elizabeth Townsend (French), and Celia Sánchez (Spanish), for helping make this publication available in three languages.



In this Issue:

Announcements	1
ALPZA Strategic Planning Workshop.....	2
Takahē Meta-population Plan Update.....	2
PVA for American Bison.....	3
Point Defiance Zoo Conservation Planning.....	3

Visit us at <http://www.cbsg.org>



This symbol indicates that a project follows the One Plan approach to species conservation planning. Click [here](#) to learn more about the One Plan approach.

Species Conservation Planning Workshop Summary

Brown Howler Monkey (*Alouatta guariba clamitans*)

Brown howlers are one of the endemic primate species of the Atlantic Forest in Argentina. The brown howler monkey (*Alouatta guariba clamitans*) has been re-classified from "endangered" to "critically endangered" and included in the national list of the most threatened mammal species. One of the primary threats to this species is yellow fever, an acute viral disease spread by mosquitoes. Find out more on the [IUCN Red List](#). Yellow fever decimated the howler population throughout its southern distribution during an outbreak in 2008-2009. Due to the suspected high impact of these epidemics, there is a special concern about the current status of the brown howler, which is the rarest monkey species in Argentina, restricted to Eastern Misiones.



Contact: Dr. María Agostini (CeIBA, IBS sede Iguazú, UNAM-CONICET) agostini.mar@gmail.com

Key Actions

In 2013, the Brown Howler Monkey Conservation Workshop Population Viability Assessment (PVA) workshop was held to establish conservation priorities for this species and its habitat in Argentina. Eleven specialists (primatologists, epidemiologists, mosquito ecologists), examined the current knowledge and situation of brown howlers in Argentina and nearby areas of Brazil, and named the following actions as integral in the survival of this species in Argentina. Click on the text in the table below to learn more details about each action.

Implement a regular surveillance system for alerting suspected yellow fever outbreaks in monkeys and people.
Estimate the population abundance of brown howler monkeys in Misiones.
Complete health studies of all brown howler monkey populations in Misiones to evaluate parameters such as physiological stress, innate and acquired immunity, hematology, etc., to be able to evaluate and compare different populations especially before and after yellow fever outbreaks.
Isolate yellow fever virus from adult and larvae of mosquitoes.
Conduct a thorough literature and archive review to enhance our understanding of the interactions (environmental and anthropogenic) involved in the maintenance and dynamics of yellow fever outbreaks in South America.
Capture adult mosquitoes where monkeys sleep or capture adult mosquitoes through monkey baited capture stations.
Refine the current and potential distribution of brown howler monkeys in Argentina.
Attempt to isolate or detect the Yellow Fever virus in suspected vertebrate hosts using virological assays, cell cultures and molecular techniques.
Conduct a systematic review about the virulence of the yellow fever virus from different strains in different vertebrate hosts in Misiones and Brazil.
Understand what defines the carrying capacity of brown howler monkeys and their habitat requirements (limiting factors, food, threats).
Identify suspected vertebrate hosts, and places of Yellow Fever virus circulation in Misiones through screening of antibodies against Yellow Fever or other Flaviviridae.
Conduct a study of the metapopulation genetic diversity (i.e. population structure, connectivity, bottle necks, etc.).

Full workshop report available at: <http://www.cbsg.org/content/brown-howler-monkey-pva-2013>

Workshop organizers: Asociación Civil Centro de Investigaciones del Bosque Atlántico (CeIBA), Argentina Instituto de Biología Subtropical – sede Iguazú, CONICET - UNAM, Karadja Bio-Reserve

Workshop sponsors: IUCN/SSC Species Conservation Planning Sub-committee (SCPSC); Conservation International –Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation – Primate Action Fund; Banham Zoo of England



Recent Activities



ALPZA Strategic Planning Workshop for Integrated Conservation

Contributed by ALPZA Executive Director Martín Zordán and ALPZA's Conservation Committee

From 29-31 May 2015, members of the Latin American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ALPZA) gathered in Buenos Aires for the ALPZA Strategic Planning Workshop for Integrated Conservation, which was organized by ALPZA's Conservation Committee. ALPZA's membership includes delegates from many different zoo and aquaria associations (ACOPA ZOO, AFdPZ, AZA, AZCARM, EAZA, SPZ, SZB, and WAZA) and representatives of several Latin American conservation NGOs (Proyecto Titi, Fundación Biodiversidad Argentina, Conservation Land Trust Argentina, and BirdLife International Argentina).



© ALPZA

During three intense and stimulating working days, Arnaud Desbiez (CBSG Brasil), and Bengt Holst and Kristin Leus (CBSG Europe) facilitated the process of creating a new conservation strategy for Latin American zoos and aquaria under the One Plan approach philosophy.

The participants defined the following goals to increase the impact of ALPZA and its members on biodiversity conservation by 2020: further integration of *in situ* and *ex situ* projects, increasing the reach of ALPZA's current conservation projects certification program, intensive conservation training, closer integration with the zoo and aquaria conservation community, and dedication of 3% of each ALPZA institution's annual budget to conservation. This new strategy will be officially launched early in 2016, although members of ALPZA's Conservation Committee have already started to implement some actions to reach these goals.

This international initiative is supported by WAZA, EAZA, CBSG Europe, CBSG Brasil, Copenhagen Zoo, Leipzig Zoo, Zoo Parc de Beauval & Beauval Nature Association, Fundación Temaikèn, and Zoológico de Buenos Aires.



A North Island Meta-population of Takahē: Progress Report

The takahē (*Porphyrio hochstetteri*) is the largest living member of the rail family and endemic to New Zealand. Once widespread in the North and South Islands, a combination of hunting, habitat destruction, and introduced predators has reduced its range to a small wild population of approximately 100 birds in the south. In 2014, CBSG worked with members of the Takahē Recovery Group to develop a plan for the development of a meta-population of free-living takahē, distributed across predator-free islands around the North Island of New Zealand. This project aims to increase the resilience of the species, providing for a larger total population size, expanded geographic distribution, and adaptation to two contrasting bioclimatic zones.

The resulting plan is now being implemented. In June this year, CBSG worked with recovery group members to prioritize birds for transfer and release to North Island sites, in line with the genetic and demographic goals articulated in the plan. Using *PMx* software, breeding and transfer recommendations were directed towards optimizing genetic outcomes for both source and receiving populations while supporting the demographic stability of both. To build additional capacity and autonomy in the use of these tools for free-living populations of threatened species in New Zealand, CBSG will be running a recovery-directed training workshop in August 2015 in partnership with Auckland Zoo, for members of both the takahē and kakapo recovery groups. Click [here](#) to view the plan for takahē.



PVA for American Bison Populations

The American bison (*Bison bison*) is among the best known species conservation stories in North America. Once numbering in the tens of millions, this culturally-significant species shaped the grassland ecosystems of the US and southern Canada. Westward expansion and extensive hunting in the 1800s reduced the species to only a few hundred individuals by the beginning of the 20th century. Today the bison has made a remarkable comeback; yet most herds are relatively small, isolated, intensively managed, and face genetic challenges.



© Gerald Holzer

In collaboration with the IUCN North America Bison Specialist Group and the National Park Service (NPS), CBSG is developing a population viability analysis (PVA) for wild free-ranging bison herds in North America. Nine populations of plains bison (*B.b. bison*) and wood bison (*B.b. athabasca*) have been identified that meet the Specialist Group's criteria as those "functioning as wild" based on demographic, genetic, ecological, and management-related factors. This PVA will inform the revised Red List assessment for American bison, which is currently categorized as Near Threatened.

CBSG led a PVA workshop in June at Fort Collins, CO to parameterize the bison *VORTEX* model. The workshop was hosted by NPS, with participants from the IUCN, NPS, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and other academicians and wildlife managers. This PVA will provide a valuable basis for potential model expansion to additional bison herds across Department of the Interior (DOI) lands and/or other populations to enable the assessment of single herd and/or meta-population management strategies.

Conservation Planning for Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (PDZA)

Contributed by John Houck, Deputy Director at PDZA



© Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Back in 2014, I read with great interest about CBSG's conservation strategic planning work with the Kansas City Zoo. I imagine there were more than a few zoos that reacted like I did by emailing CBSG: "Hey, that is exactly what we want to do! Can we explore that with you?"

PDZA has a vibrant conservation "portfolio" that includes endangered species breeding programs, conservation education programs, and conservation funding. PDZA is achieving at a high rate for a zoo of its size and we recognized that the type of planning and facilitation that CBSG does could be of great use. This workshop was not about fixing something that was broken: it was about getting even better at what we are already doing by examining our organization and focus.

In May 2015, a group of PDZA management, senior keepers and aquarists, educators, and key partners conducted a Conservation Planning Workshop under the guidance of CBSG. The workshop was two and a half days of the most intense immersion in conservation that many of us have experienced. The participants consistently made thoughtful and creative attempts to tackle complex subject matter. In the context of the overall PDZA Strategic Plan, we set goals and developed objectives, actions, and (importantly) timelines for each. Now we have the roadmap to guide us into the future and help us achieve what we set out to do: bring focus and direction to our conservation efforts.