

Reminders

2014 CBSG Annual Meeting Late Registration Continues Until 25 October

Late registration for the 2014 CBSG Annual Meeting will continue until 25 October, so there is still an opportunity to join us in India. The meeting will be hosted by Central Zoo Authority, India in New Delhi from 30 October to 2 November 2014. Visit <http://waza2014delhi.com/cbsg/registration.html> to register. Visit <http://www.cbsg.org/latest-news/2014-annual-meeting> for up-to-date information about the meeting and the most recent agenda.

Recent Publications

CBSG Annual Report 2013

The 2013 CBSG Annual Report provides a summary of last year's activities and communicates our deep gratitude to the donors, workshop sponsors, and network of CBSG members and staff who make our work possible. The success stories describe our conservation work with red pandas, brown howler monkeys, Pickersgill's reed frogs, greater sage grouse, southern corroboree frogs, and planning for a wildlife reserve on New Zealand's Rotoroa Island. We invite you to view and download the publication at this link: http://www.cbsg.org/sites/cbsg.org/files/documents/CBSG_Annual_Report_2013.pdf.



CBSG eUpdate: October 2014

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



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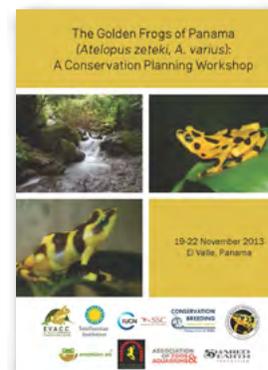
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This symbol indicates that a project follows the One Plan approach to species conservation planning. Click [here](#) to learn more about the One Plan approach.

Panamanian Golden Frog Workshop Report

<http://www.cbsg.org/content/panamanian-golden-frog-conservation-planning-2014>.



Update to Costa Rica's National Red List: Amphibians and Reptiles

<http://www.cbsg.org/content/update-costa-ricas-national-red-list-amphibians-and-reptiles>



Recent Activities

VORTEX 10 Course for Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica

In July, CBSG Mesoamerica was invited by Federico Villalobos (Professor of Genetics and Evolution at Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica) to teach a course about Population Viability Analysis (PVA) using *VORTEX 10*. Eleven biology students and one professor of statistics participated. Federico said about the course: “The School of Biological Sciences at the National University provides its students with the opportunity at the end of their undergraduate studies to choose a curricular focus on tropical biology, among other fields. The workshop on *VORTEX* provided an ideal opportunity for our students to learn the uses and relevance of PVA in order to incorporate it into their knowledge. The workshop focused on practical data analysis and allowed the students to put their background knowledge and computer analysis skills into practice. The course also provided relevant information in order to evaluate the possibility of incorporating this topic into the current curricula of our students.”



Red Siskin Recovery Workshop

The Endangered red siskin (*Carduelis cucullata*) has been extirpated from most of its historic range, leaving a few fragmented populations in Venezuela and Guyana. A major contributor to the species’ decline has been extensive trapping for the pet trade, where it is hybridized with canaries to produce “red canaries” prized by the private sector. In July the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute hosted a two-day international workshop to review and advance the Red Siskin Recovery Project. Plans for conservation action include the establishment of *ex situ* populations in the range states and also in the US to serve as assurance populations and/or source populations for conservation reinforcement and reintroduction. A possible PHVA workshop next year in Venezuela is being discussed to develop a comprehensive “One Plan” conservation and research strategy for this species, and funding options are being explored.



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Integrating Economic Analysis with Free-Roaming Cat Population Dynamics Modeling

In August, CBSG staff traveled to Fort Collins, CO, USA to discuss a potential collaboration with wildlife economists at the National Wildlife Research Center. This collaboration would extend and enhance a free-roaming cat demographic modeling effort currently coordinated by CBSG and the Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs (ACC&D).

The proposed collaboration would focus on explicitly incorporating financial costs associated with alternative strategies for managing free-roaming cat abundance in urban and rural environmental settings. The objectives for the project include:

1. Identify the management strategy that meets a specified “target population end state” (i.e., threshold cat population abundance or growth rate) at the lowest cost; or, alternatively,
2. Identify the management strategy that maximizes the change in “population state” given a particular budget; and
3. Explore how environmental and economic parameters (and related sources of uncertainty) influence the choice of management strategies under the above scenarios.

All costs associated with trapping individual cats would be tallied, as well as costs for alternative management strategies including removal, permanent sterilization, or temporary contraception. The proposed nine-month project would yield a set of effective, cost-effective recommendations for local animal shelters to implement in the field.



Bilby Summit

CBSG is working with the Save the Bilby Fund, Taronga Zoo, and others to convene a stakeholder-inclusive workshop aimed at planning for the conservation of greater bilbies (*Macrotis lagotis*) in Australia. The first meeting of the organizing group for this initiative took place in Brisbane on 29 July and included representatives from the Save the Bilby Fund, CBSG, Dreamworld, Griffith University, and the Queensland and Federal Governments.

The bilby is a native Australian Easter icon that is facing serious threats from introduced predators such as cats and foxes. Bilby knowledge, expertise, and conservation efforts reach across several Australian States and across a variety of wildlife sectors and agencies, but recovery efforts and initiatives are currently fragmented and lack centralized direction, coordination, and resourcing.

The workshop will bring together representatives from the bilby community and others interested in committing skills and resources to the species' recovery to build a single, unified approach to the future of the species in Australia. This will not only generate new and productive initiatives for bilbies but will bring benefits for other species that live alongside them in the arid landscape.



© Save the Bilby Fund

Strategic Action Planning for the Colombian Association of Zoos and Aquariums

The Colombian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (ACOPAZOA) was created in 1978 and is one of the oldest zoo associations in the region. It is comprised of 15 zoos and aquariums from all over the country. ACOPAZOA recognized the need to develop a new action plan and invited CBSG Mexico to design and facilitate the process. From 19-21 August, ACOPAZOA's Strategic Action Planning workshop was held in Bogotá, Colombia. During the workshop, 19 participants representing 13 institutions created a new vision, mission, and core values for the association. Current challenges were identified along with focal strategic areas, objectives, and actions to tackle those challenges. Participants discussed what ACOPAZOA offers to its current and potential members, as well as the obligations of its members. The role and scope of the committee serving the Association were also reviewed.

Mr. Rafaél Torres, current ACOPAZOA president, said about the process, "I have never liked strategic planning processes but after this experience I feel I have overcome my fears." ACOPAZOA is very well organized with great participation and enthusiasm from its members. This new action plan will give ACOPAZOA more tools to continue improving and to deepen its commitment to wildlife conservation.

Developing a Conservation Plan for the Kansas City Zoo



Kansas City Zoo Director Randy Wisthoff invited CBSG and CBSG North America to assist Kansas City Zoo in developing their first conservation plan. The zoo's leadership gathered in August for the first of two workshops designed to create a vision for the future of conservation at the zoo and to establish a set of goals, objectives, and specific actions that will get them there. This is an important step for Kansas City Zoo and they embraced the challenge. After discussing their desired purpose for the zoo and imagining its ideal future, the group stated unanimously that they envision a "world in which Kansas City Zoo contributes significantly to preserving the diversity of species and conserving resources on Earth while influencing others to do the same." Three themes were identified in

the vision: species conservation, resource conservation, and influencing others. Goals and objectives were defined for each theme. The next workshop, to be held in December, will engage the broader Kansas City Zoo community and focus on developing a detailed action plan for realizing the zoo's bold new conservation vision.

Meta-population Planning for Takahē (*Porphyrio hochstetteri*)

CBSG has been working with the New Zealand Takahē Recovery Group to build a plan for a viable meta-population of birds on New Zealand's North Island. Takahē are the largest living members of the rail family and endemic to New Zealand. Two different species existed historically: one in the South Island (*Porphyrio hochstetteri*) and a second in the North Island (*P. mantelli*). These two species were distinct both genetically and morphologically, the North Island form lighter in weight with a smaller beak and longer, more slender leg bones.

Though once widespread, a combination of hunting, habitat destruction, and introduced predators reduced the range of both species dramatically and by the early part of the 20th Century they were considered extinct. A small population of 250-300 birds was discovered in a remote region of the South Island in 1948 but underwent further declines in the 1980s. In 1985, a captive-rearing program was established in a government breeding center to support this remnant wild population and to raise birds for translocation to suitable offshore island refuges. However, the scarcity of suitable sites on and around the birds' native South Island has resulted in most releases taking place on offshore islands in the north, where the birds have shown reduced breeding success due in part to ongoing acclimatization issues and inbreeding depression.



© Auckland Zoo

CBSG's work with the recovery group has been focused around the application of small population management tools to reduce these risks into the future. The application of both *VORTEX* and *PMx* in this instance has been greatly enhanced by the availability of 30 years of data on remaining takahē, including a complete studbook dataset for all birds outside the remaining wild population. This, and the appetite among the recovery group for creative management intervention, has enabled the use of techniques such as management by mean kinship, usually only possible in captivity. The product of the work so far is a detailed plan for the management of the North Island subset of the species over the next ten years. It considers founding, growth, and capacity stages of the proposed meta-population. The meta-population is to be managed separately from South Island stocks with the aim of fostering adaptation and genetic and demographic resilience in two contrasting bioclimatic zones while substantially reducing the need for long-distance translocation of birds. It is envisaged that over the long term, this new meta-population could facilitate ecological replacement of the extinct North Island *P. mantelli*.

Conservation Planning for the Translocation of African Penguins



© Mike Jordan

The status of the African penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) in the wild continues to deteriorate, and it is quickly becoming a key species in the work of CBSG Southern Africa. CBSG Southern Africa is now regularly involved in supporting the work of the recently formed African Penguin Population Reinforcement Working Group working under the auspices of provincial government (CapeNature) and hosted by SANCCOB, and also advising the Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquaria conservation breeding program (APP).

Earlier this year, CBSG Southern Africa completed and published the *Risk Assessment for the Conservation Translocation of African Penguins* (<http://www.cbsg.org/content/risk-assessment-conservation-translocation-captive-bred-african-penguins-2014>), advancing the likelihood of large-scale conservation translocation. Subsequently, modeling has been taking place

to predict the target numbers of translocated African penguins required to have a significant conservation impact on the population. The results of these models will help inform the APP of the required numbers of birds. Work has already started on the production of *Conservation Translocation Guidelines for the African Penguin*, which will be facilitated and edited by CBSG Southern Africa and is hoped to be completed early in 2015.

SSC Steering Committee Meeting

The Species Survival Commission (SSC) Steering Committee met from 27-30 August in beautiful Tallinn, Estonia. The meeting was generously hosted by CBSG Member Tiit Maran, Head of Species Conservation at Tallinn Zoo. The agenda consisted of a series of reports from SSC Chair Simon Stuart, Deputy Chair Jon Paul Rodríguez, and Head of the Global Species Program Jane Smart. The Subcommittees and Specialist Groups represented on the Steering Committee also presented, allowing CBSG to learn about the work of the broader SSC community. CBSG's report to the group assessed our contribution to the SSC Strategic Plan. We are making progress on all targets, particularly those focused on implementation and enhancement of species conservation planning and the One Plan approach.



© Onnie Byers

Highlights of interest to the CBSG community include:

- The IUCN *Ex Situ* Guidelines were approved by the Steering Committee and will now go to the IUCN for publication. Many thanks to Kristin Leus, Kathy Traylor-Holzer, and Phil McGowan for their leadership on this project. The guidelines can be downloaded at: <http://www.cbsg.org/sites/cbsg.org/files/IUCNexsituguidelinesv14.pdf>.
- The World Species Congress, which has been discussed at several CBSG meetings, is now proposed as a much smaller and more focused World Species Forum to be held in 2016, if funding is forthcoming. The current thinking is that participation in the Forum will be by invitation only and limited to no more than a few hundred people. The Steering Committee continues to debate what the event should look like.
- In the 2009-2012 quadrennium, the SSC launched the Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP) in response to the IUCN Red List's finding that there are many Critically Endangered vertebrate species in Southeast Asia receiving little or no conservation attention. A considerable amount has been achieved through ASAP already but important issues need to be addressed, including how to make ASAP sustainable and how to make ASAP-eligible species more of a conservation priority. Madhu Rao (ASAP Coordinator) and Bill Robichaud (Coordinator of the IUCN SSC Saola Working Group, an ASAP species) will bring these questions to the CBSG Annual Meeting in India for further discussion.
- The IUCN commissioned a situation analysis of West and Central Africa to summarize available information on the medium to large terrestrial and freshwater vertebrate fauna of the region; to document the main impacts and drivers of wildlife loss in the region; and to review existing conservation measures and effectiveness. The second draft of the situation analysis is now in preparation and, once available, will deserve our attention. The formation of a "West and Central Africa Species Action Partnership" (modeled on ASAP) is being considered.
- The SSC continues to encourage zoos and aquariums to integrate the Red List scale into their graphics. Tallinn Zoo is an excellent example of how the Red List scale can be very simply and effectively added to existing zoo graphics (see image at right). See more about the Red List branding package on [page 6](#) of this eUpdate.



In addition to all that occurred in the meeting proper, many side meetings took place.

CBSG spoke with the acting Chair of the Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi) about their interest in conducting a workshop to evaluate the use of captive breeding for trade. CBSG, along with several other IUCN entities, will take part in this workshop. Several other discussions were held with the Reintroduction SG, Invasive Species SG, Marine Conservation Subcommittee, and others regarding current and future conservation planning collaborations. As is often the case, these conversations were as valuable as the content of the meeting itself.

The IUCN Red List Logo and Scale

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi, and plant species.

The goal is to catalyze action for biodiversity conservation, not only by providing information and analysis on the world's species, including threats, population status and trends, but also by building public awareness of the conservation status of species. The IUCN cannot do this alone and works with partners such as zoos and aquariums to engage and educate the public.

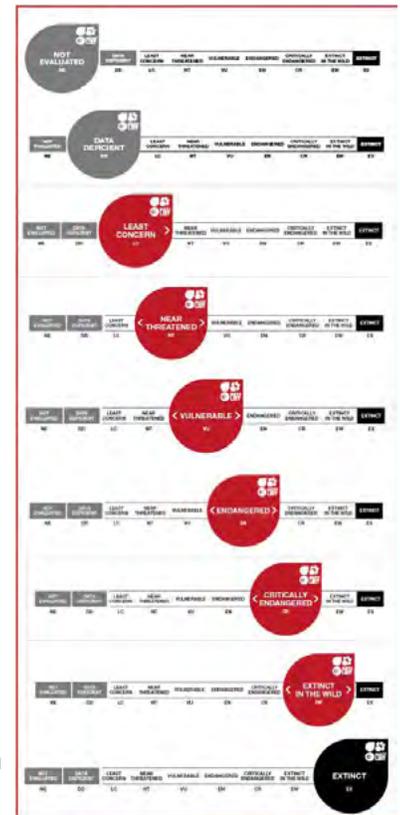
Since the launch of The IUCN Red List logo and scale in 2008 there has been great interest from the zoo and aquarium community, and they are already being used on signage and education materials across the world.

The scale is an easy-to-use graphic that clearly identifies the threat category of a species. Individual threat category buttons are also available. The scales and buttons can be used on signage, posters, websites, publications, etc. However, they can only be used in relation to a species that has been assessed on The IUCN Red List.

The IUCN Red List scale is now available in nine languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Greek, Danish, Dutch, Arabic and Japanese. Scales in additional languages can also be developed in consultation with the Red List team.

If you are interested in using The IUCN Red List threat category scales or buttons, please contact Lynne Labanne at lynne.labanne@iucn.org.

Find out more about The IUCN Red List at www.iucnredlist.org and follow them at www.facebook.com/iucn.red.list and [@iucnredlist](https://www.instagram.com/iucnredlist).



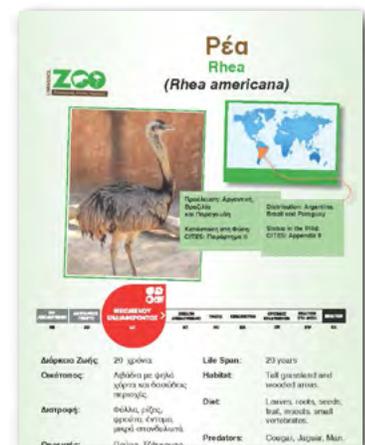
BIOPARC de Doué la Fontaine, France



Belfast City Zoo, Northern Ireland



Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark



Limassol Zoo, Cyprus



Thanks and Appreciation

CBSG is very grateful to our members who volunteer their time and energy to help us communicate our work. For many years now, Celia Sánchez and Jean-Luc Berthier have helped translate our eUpdates into Spanish and French. We want to extend our gratitude to them, and highlight their work and accomplishments. Thank you, Celia and Jean-Luc!

Celia Sánchez

Celia Sánchez was born in Madrid, Spain in late 1962. She received her veterinary degree and shortly thereafter joined the Spanish “Cuerpo Nacional Veterinario.” She was appointed to Doñana National Park in southern Spain, where she remained for almost 20 years. She mainly worked on designing and conducting wildlife health monitoring programs, and also collaborated on the captive breeding plans that were started in those years, including white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), salinete (*Aphanius baeticus*), and Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*).

Though her recent work is seldom linked with nature conservation or wildlife, she remains interested in staying up to date about conservation and spreading this information. She very much enjoys translating CBSG texts into Spanish, and hopes it is useful for her Spanish-speaking colleagues!



Jean-Luc Berthier

Jean-Luc was born 1946 in Fontainebleau, France. After earning his veterinary diploma and a diploma in ecology, Jean-Luc entered the mammals department of the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle (Paris). In 1978 he joined the Ménagerie (one of the zoos of the MNHN) as vet and curator, where he worked for almost 30 years with a focus on anesthesiology and primate virology. During that time he introduced the International Species Information System (ISIS) in France and was involved in the creation of EAZA and its breeding programs. He kept studbooks for some Cerpothicinae species and for blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*), and was the chair of the EAZA Caprinae TAG for 19 years.

He has been a member of CBSG since 1991, and even though he recently officially retired, Jean-Luc is still involved with French and European zoos. He enjoys continuing to work with CBSG, which he thinks is a key group linking *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation.

