

## Annual Meeting Announcement: Regular registration ends 15 August

CBSG's 2012 Annual Meeting will be hosted by Zoos Victoria and Melbourne Zoo in Melbourne, Australia, 4-7 October 2012. The list of diverse working groups is still evolving. The current topics include:

- Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis: One Health meets One Plan (an introduction and mini-training workshop)
- Frozen Ark: the creation of a One Plan genome resource banking system
- Embedding nature conservation in national policy
- Structured Decision Making in the One Plan Approach to conservation planning
- Conservation Welfare
- Australian mammal's extinction: needs and costs of ensuring captive populations and other IMPs: Application of the One Plan Approach
- Keeping tools alive: ensuring a future for CBSG innovation
- CBSG Climate Change Action Planning

Regular registration now ends 15 August, so be sure to register at <http://www1.zoo.org.au/waza/cbsgreg.html> before that date. Late registration runs from 16 August to 20 September. We hope to see you in Melbourne!

## A Frog Fit for a Prince

Did you hear the news? On 5 July 2012, CBSG Chair Dr. Onnie Byers joined a group of Amphibian Ark representatives at Highgrove House near Tetbury, England, to celebrate the conservation contribution of a rainforest hero and raise the profile of a critically imperiled group of vertebrates. Amphibian Ark partner Dr. Luis Coloma named a newly discovered frog species, *Hyloscirtus princecharlesi*, in honor of Charles, Prince of Wales, for his commitment to rainforest conservation. We dedicated a full [Special Issue eUpdate](#) to the story, complete with photos of the celebratory ceremony attended by Onnie Byers (representing IUCN), Kevin Zippel (AArk), Gerald Dick (WAZA), Dr. Luis Coloma, and of course, Prince Charles.

## CBSG eUpdate: July 2012

*Contributors: Juan Cornejo, B.A. Daniel, Kristin Leus, Jorge Rodríguez, Kathy Traylor-Holzer, Emily Wick*

*Editor: Emily Wick*

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## Red Listing for Central American Squamates // CBSG Mesoamérica

Research indicates that nearly a fifth of Central American reptiles are threatened with extinction. Many of these are endemic northern Central American lizards and snakes restricted to isolated cloud forests that are being rapidly destroyed by an advancing agricultural frontier. NatureServe, Universidad de Costa Rica, Organization for Tropical Studies, Instituto Clodomiro Picado, IUCN, and independent scientists invited CBSG Mesoamérica to co-convene a workshop to complete Red List assessments for Central American squamates. The goal was to review existing and create new assessments, including threat category assignment, compilation of supporting data, and the creation of a range map for all Central American squamate species.

The workshop convened on 6–10 May 2012 at Palo Verde Biological Station in Costa Rica and involved 34 participants, including herpetologists and scientists. The workshop began with an introduction to Palo Verde and the project, followed by a thorough review of Red List criteria and documentation terms. The remaining days were spent in small, geographically-arranged working groups, reviewing the assessments for each species. Yolanda Matamoros and Jorge Rodríguez from CBSG Mesoamérica facilitated a working group, and Jorge entered all resulting information

Photo by Juan Cornejo

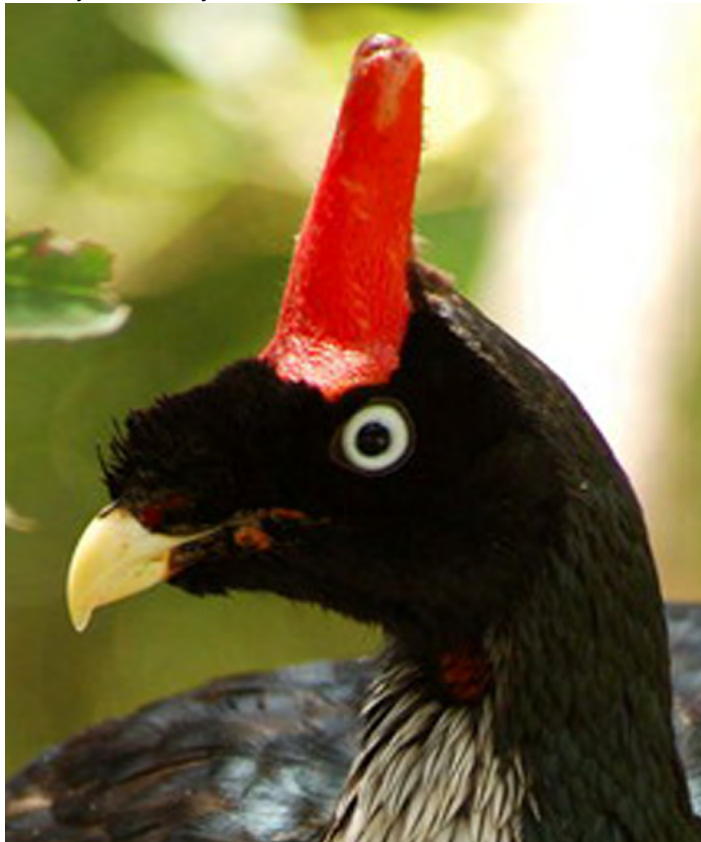


Photo by Sergio Padilla

into the database. The assembled scientists succeeded in working through 468 currently recognized species of squamates native to Central America. After each species is reviewed, adjusted, and confirmed, this information will be published on the IUCN Red List website. CBSG Mesoamérica will work with the facilitators to create a report that will be available at [www.cbsgmesoamerica.org](http://www.cbsgmesoamerica.org) upon completion.

## Conserving the Horned Guan // Juan Cornejo, CBSG Mexico

In 2002, CBSG Mexico organized its first PHVA workshop as a CBSG network: a PHVA for the Horned Guan (*Oreophasis derbianus*) that took place in Panajachel, Guatemala. The workshop resulted in the creation of the first action plan for this endangered species and the formation of the International Committee for the Conservation of *Oreophasis*. Since then, the Committee has been overseeing the implementation of the plan, as well as promoting and facilitating the research and conservation work with the species.

Ten years after that first PHVA, on 28 May–2 June 2012, a workshop was held to renew the action plan for this charismatic species, which is threatened by the loss of its cloud forest habitat. The workshop used the *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation* methodology to identify the main threats and best conservation actions, and used *Vortex* to assess the viability of the population throughout its range. The workshop was funded by CONANP-Mexico and organized by CONANP-Mexico, CONAP-Guatemala, the Biology College of the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.





Photo by Tara Stephens

## Red Panda Global Masterplan and Red Panda PHVA // Kristin Leus, CBSG Europe

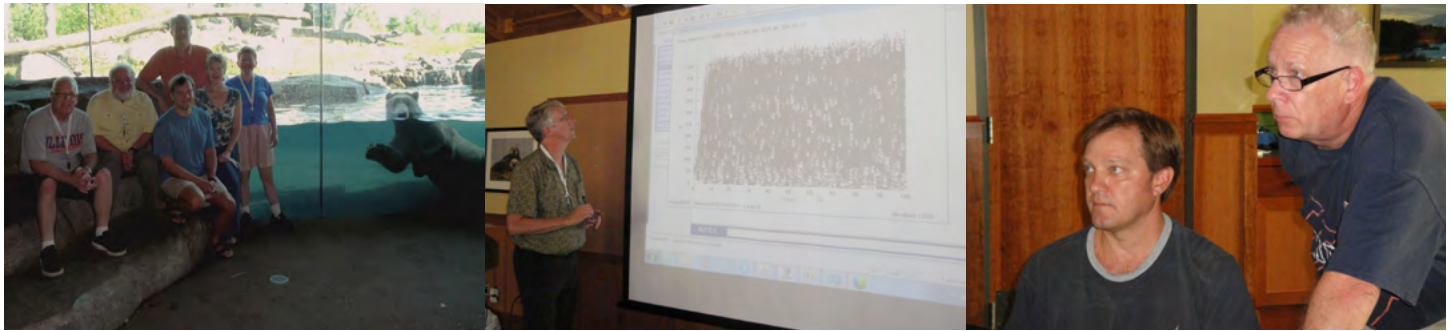
The red panda population has declined an estimated 50% over the last 50 years, arriving at a current population of fewer than 10,000 individuals distributed over two (sub)\* species and five range countries. This “forgotten panda” requires swift conservation action, and the conservation community has responded.

A second global strategic planning meeting for the *ex situ* red panda population took place 24-27 April, hosted by Rotterdam Zoo, home of the International Studbook, and facilitated by CBSG Europe/EAZA. The meeting was attended by regional managers and representatives of EAZA, AZA, ZAA, JAZA, PAAZAB, and the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) of India, as well as several members of WAZA’s Committee on Population Management (CPM). The CPM has selected the red panda as one of six trial GSMPs (Global Species Management Plans), and the meeting served as a testing ground for the proposed GSMP application and management procedures. The application and working procedures for the Red Panda GSMP were formalized and the current status and needs of the world and regional populations of both taxa were assessed. The role of the *ex situ* programs and their genetic, demographic, and behavioral objectives were defined. Meeting participants investigated opportunities for interregional transfers, discussed several husbandry and veterinary issues, and

identified the most opportune ways to contribute to *in situ* conservation.

This GSMP meeting is complemented by a series of three red panda PHVA workshops, the first of which took place in Nepal in 2010. Each PHVA focuses on a different part of the species’ range. From 11-14 June 2012, the Institute of Zoology (IOZ) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in collaboration with CBSG, the IUCN SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group, and Rotterdam Zoo, hosted the second PHVA for both red panda subspecies at the IOZ in Beijing. A vision for red panda conservation in China was developed, the knowledge on the population status assessed, the chain of events for the different threats affecting red panda and its habitat analyzed, and goals, objectives, and priority actions defined. In addition, the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens (CAZG) was informed of and included in activities resulting from the global *ex situ* meeting. A final PHVA in India in 2013 will cover the red panda’s situation in the rest of its range. Together these workshops demonstrate integration of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation planning on a global scale, which has the potential to reverse the decline of red pandas in the wild.

\*Colin Groves has suggested that *Styan’s panda* and the red panda may in fact be separate species.



Photos by Joyce Briggs

## Exploring New Applications for Simulation Modeling // Emily Wick, CBSG

With a population climbing into the tens of millions, the number of free-roaming cats in the US continues to increase due to the degree of contact between feral cats and owned but free-roaming animals, and a lack of sterilization in both. Free-roaming cats often lead short and difficult lives, and they tend to prey on native birds and small mammals, creating a concern for conservationists. On 11-12 July, CBSG hosted a meeting of the Free-Roaming Cat Population Dynamics Model Development Team at the Minnesota Zoo's Cargill Environmental Education Center. Supported by the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs (ACC&D), the workshop built on insight gained from a Free-Roaming Cat and Dog Population Dynamics "Think Tank" meeting held in June 2011.

Drawing from an extensive data library, the participants developed computer simulation models using *Vortex*, incorporating expert understanding of cat reproduction and survival in urban and rural settings. After creating a baseline model, they altered parameters, such as maximum age of reproduction and cat mortality rates, to model possible outcomes in cat populations. The results will guide the team in predicting cat populations' response to different methods of reproduction management through surgical or non-surgical sterilization techniques. Using these predictions, cat population managers can design effective programs for limiting free-roaming cat populations and reducing the number that end up in animal shelters.

## Tiger Masterplanning and Felid Global Management // Kathy Traylor-Holzer, CBSG

Initiated in 1981, the AZA Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP) is one of longest-running cooperatively managed zoo programs. In July, the Tiger SSP held its annual masterplan meeting at Hogle Zoo, Salt Lake City, Utah to review the population status and management issues for Amur, Sumatran, and Malayan tigers in North American zoos. Kathy Traylor-Holzer from CBSG HQ participated as the regional studbook keeper and population management advisor to the Tiger SSP. About 50 breeding recommendations were developed for next year, designed to promote demographically and genetically healthy populations for these three managed tiger subspecies. Generic tigers with unknown pedigrees are being actively managed to extinction (no reproduction and no new acquisitions) to increase capacity to expand the managed tiger populations. Meeting participants also discussed new and ongoing research efforts, increasing efforts to develop reliable artificial insemination techniques for tigers, and support for *in situ* conservation efforts in Russia, Malaysia, and Indonesia.



Photo by Minnesota Zoo

SSP meetings for tigers and several other felid species were followed by the annual conference of the AZA Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), which manages 16 large and small cat species. A primary focus of this year's meeting was to

identify opportunities for global management to increase *ex situ* population viability. CBSG conducted preliminary regional and global analyses of four candidate species and facilitated working group discussions regarding the potential role and advantages of Global Species Management Plans (GSMPs), including benefits to the wild populations. Challenges and obstacles, and strategies to deal with them, also were discussed. Regional coordinators for AZA and EAZA participated in these discussions, and tentative plans were developed to initiate the GSMP application process for these species.



# Upcoming Activities

## Central American River Turtle *Vortex* Training and PHVA // Jorge Rodríguez, CBSG

Mesoamérica

Though it once flourished in Mexico and Belize, the Central American river turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) population has declined dramatically due to overharvesting in the 1970s, when trappers took thousands of turtles annually. The species is now Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List) and the Universidad Juarez Autonoma de Tabasco, Mexico responded by implementing a conservation program with *in situ* and *ex situ* components, directed by turtle specialist Dr. Claudia Zenteno.

Dr. Stefan Arriaga from the University invited CBSG Mesoamérica to conduct a *Vortex* course (31 July–3 August) followed by a PHVA workshop (6–9 August) for this species at the University campus. The *Vortex* course will instruct participants on the use of the *Vortex* simulation program to conduct a Population Viability Analysis (PVA) as an important tool for creating effective conservation programs. University professors, post-graduate students and field scientists from Tabasco and other Mexican states are expected to attend. The River Turtle PHVA will be facilitated jointly by the CBSG Mesoamérica and CBSG Mexico networks. It will generate further information about turtle populations and conservation actions that can be incorporated into the conservation program of the University and other conservation efforts from institutions around Mexico. The invitees include specialists in disciplines such as *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, genetics, and environmental education, as well as stakeholders from government agencies. The PHVA will also provide hands-on practical experience to new CBSG modelers from Mexico who attended the *Vortex* training.

## IUCN World Conservation Congress

CBSG Chair Onnie Byers will travel to Jeju, Korea on 6–15 September to represent CBSG at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Held every four years, the Congress assembles government leaders, NGOs, the public sector, UN agencies, social organizations, and businesses in one location to work at solving the puzzle of effective global conservation. While in Korea, Onnie will participate in the SSC Steering Committee meeting and co-run a workshop to introduce and gather input on the One Plan Approach to conservation planning, a current CBSG initiative. She will be joined by many other CBSG members, and together they will champion the cause of integrated conservation.



## Human-Elephant Coexistence (HECx) in Asia // B.A. Daniel, CBSG South Asia

CBSG South Asia/Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO) has been conducting Human Elephant Coexistence (HECx) workshops since 2008 with the support of various zoos, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the International Elephant Foundation (IEF). The workshop educates local people about elephant behavior and about precautions to take when in they come into contact with these animals. The goal of this workshop series is to reduce the number of injuries and deaths caused by human-elephant conflict. HECx has been conducted in many elephant range countries, including India (states of West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu), Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia, and Thailand.

Another series of four workshops, sponsored by the USFWS and IEF, will take place this August and September in the high elephant conflict areas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The workshops train teachers, NGOs, forest and wildlife staffers, volunteers, wildlife researchers, and selected others who live and work in or near HECx areas. This program is preceded by a survey of local residents to document their state of mind, fine-tune materials, and assess the effectiveness of the approach. It is followed by a two-day refresher course to reinforce learning and provide additional teaching techniques.