

CBSG Japan Regional Network Activity Report 2008

1. Co-sponsorship of the Red-Headed Wood Pigeon PHVA

Held 10-13 January 2008 at the Chichijima regional welfare center in Chichijima, Ogasawara, Tokyo.

The Red-Headed Wood Pigeon is designated as a national endangered species of wild fauna, and is one of the endemic species in the Ogasawara islands. The wild population is estimated to be approximately 40 individuals. This bird is categorized as Critically Endangered (CR) on the Red List by the Japanese Ministry of Environment, the highest category of endangerment.



At present, there are various programs for the conservation of this species, such as captive breeding, forest rehabilitation, establishment of a pigeon sanctuary, removal of feral cats as a measure against alien species, ecological survey, and so on. However, the opportunity for sharing the diverse information and integrated examination of the projects that individually have made progress has been extremely limited. Therefore, the Japanese Ministry of Environment and related institutions, along with other groups and experts gathered and invited Dr. Philip Miller, Dr. Kathy Traylor-Holzer and Dr. Jonathan Ballou (National Zoological Park / CBSG) to hold a PHVA workshop involving the local people of Chichijima. Several members of CBSG Japan joined the PHVA executive committee.

The contents of this workshop were as follows:

- A. *Ex situ* conservation: Assessment of captive breeding and management
Topic one: Information sharing on the captive population and investigation of the problems of captive reproduction.
- B. *In situ* conservation: Viability assessment of the wild pigeon population and habitat, survey and research of the population and habitat, and conservation activities.
Topic one: Information sharing of survey, research, and conservation activities; prioritization of goals.
Topic two: Identification and prioritization of issues and the recommended course of action for pigeon conservation measures in ecological rehabilitation.
- C. Local community: Establishment of a community that can coexist with Red-Headed Wood Pigeon.
Topic one: Promotion of appropriate management of domestic cats in rural areas.
Topic two: Increased public awareness of the Red-Headed Wood Pigeon, also

known as the phantom bird.

To organize and conduct this workshop, we held pre-PHVA meetings at two sites in Tokyo.

2. Co-sponsorship between CBSG Japan and CBSG Indonesia of an *Ex Situ* Population Management and Facilitation Training Seminar for Indonesian zoo workers. Held 18-19 February at Taman Safari Indonesia in Indonesia.

3. Asian Elephant Health Care Training Course V
CBSG Japan held the Elephant Health Care Training Course with the cooperation of Chiang Mai University, Thailand on 23-27 February. This is our fifth training course since 2003, and zoo veterinarians, keepers and many students participated.



4. Co-sponsorship of training courses for *ex situ* population management that were linked to JAZA SSP meetings. These training courses were held on 28-30 May at Tennoji Zoo in Osaka and 2-4 June at Ueno Zoo in Tokyo.

The purpose of these training courses was to learn the necessary techniques to make captive population management at zoos more effective. CBSG Japan joined the executive committee of these training courses, which were sponsored by JAZA and the Tokyo Zoological Park Society. Dr. Kathy Traylor-Holzer from CBSG and Laurie Bingaman Lackey from ISIS served as instructors in principles of *ex situ* population management and the use of SPARKS, PM2000 and ZIMS for record-keeping, studbook management, population data analysis, and program goal setting.