

Conservation Planning Processes Working Group Update 2008 CBSG Annual Meeting, Adelaide, Australia

July 2009 Update

The primary purpose of this working group in Adelaide was to introduce CBSG members to the Species Conservation Strategic Planning documents created by the Species Conservation Planning Task Force of the IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC). These documents are designed to be used as guidelines for species conservation planning within the SSC Specialist Group structure and by other conservation organizations around the world. During discussions around the generalized process of creating a Species Conservation Strategy (SCS) and the use of the associated document, two distinct recommendations emerged from the working group:

- CBSG should take the lead in training for the SCS process, especially via the CBSG Regional Networks.
- CBSG is the ideal group to promote and implement SCS goals, and should move forward with this immediately, rather than waiting for direction from the SSC.

Subsequent to the Adelaide meeting, there has been a substantial amount of discussion amongst Task Force members and representatives from CBSG and SSC concerning the future implementation of species conservation planning. A recent meeting of representatives of the CBSG and SSC in Bristol, England resulted in a proposal that details the establishment of a new Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee. Like other SSC Sub-Committees, the SCPSC will report directly to the SSC Steering Committee and will work to promote and coordinate work throughout the SSC. Terms of reference for the new Sub-Committee have been drafted, and the SSC Chair has now forwarded these on to the SSC Steering Committee for comment and endorsement. Within this context, CBSG staff and members will work closely with the new Sub-Committee, will be closely involved in further refinements to the SCS process, and will continue to discuss internally the best ways we can adapt our existing tools and processes to serve the needs of the species conservation community.