



CBSG Mesoamerica 2008-2009 Report of activities

During 2008-2009, CBSG Mesoamerica wrote grant proposals, designed, organized and facilitated workshops, were a part of the modeling team, and worked on the final reports of the following workshops:

Taller de Conservación de la Guacamaya Verde (*Ara ambiguus*). Evaluación de Viabilidad Poblacional y de Hábitat (PHVA). Green Macaw (*Ara ambiguus*) Conservation Workshop (PHVA).

As a result of the Costa Rican Psittacids CAMP, held at Simon Bolivar Zoo on August 17-18, 2006, it was decided that the green macaw (*Ara ambiguus*) was the most threatened species of the group, and a PHVA and a Conservation Strategy were needed for it. The Mesoamerican Psittacids Conservation Network, the Tropical Scientific Center (CCT), the Biology School of the Universidad de Costa Rica, the Organization for Tropical Studies (OET), Fundación pro Zoológicos (FUNDAZOO) and CBSG decide to organize a workshop to address this need.

This workshop was held at La Selva Biological Station, Sarapiquí, Heredia, Costa Rica, September 22-26, 2008 with the participation of 37 persons representing 32 different organizations from six countries that are home range for the species: Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia y Ecuador. Two researchers from the United States that work with the red macaw in Peru and three Mexican researches that work with *Ara militaris* also participated, sharing their knowledge and experience.

Sea World, Loro Parque and the Organization for Tropical Studies financed this workshop. During the workshop, Regional and National Conservations Strategies were developed and the Latin America Psittacids Conservation Network was established.

Taller Internacional Sobre Manejo del Pinzón del Manglar (*Cactospiza heliobates*). Mangrove Finch (*Cactospiza heliobates*) Management International Workshop.

Research on the populations of the mangrove finch on Isabela Island, in Galapagos, Ecuador was conducted under the leadership of the biologist Birgit Fessl and with the support of Galapagos National Park, the Charles Darwin Foundation, Darwin Initiative and Durrell. As the design of the project included a workshop to analyze the research results obtained and to propose a Conservation Strategy to follow the work done, Birgit invited CBSG Mesoamerica to facilitate it.

This workshop was held at the Galapagos National Park Offices, Puerto Villamil, Isabela, Galapagos, Ecuador November 17-21, 2008, thanks to the support of Darwin Initiative, Fogo Switzerland, Galapagos National Park, Charles Darwin Foundation and CBSG Mesoamerica. Eighteen participants representing 10 institutions from 7 different countries worked hard during the five day meeting, analyzing the habitat of the mangrove finch, the three remaining populations at Isabela, the possibilities for captive breeding, and the social aspects. A conservation strategy considering these issues was

elaborated. The participants also took field trips to see the habitat of the finch at Isabela Island, a wonderful place. The report for this workshop is almost finished.

Taller de Análisis de la Población y del Hábitat del Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) en Costa Rica. Estrategia para la Conservación de la Especie.
Workshop for the Analysis of the Habitat and the Population of Costa Rica Jaguar (*Panthera onca*). Strategy for its Conservation.

Different groups of researchers are studying jaguar populations in Costa Rica and, in order to know each other and the work that they are doing and to share results and experiences, the Biology School of the Universidad de Costa Rica, Panthera Project, Fundación pro Zoológicos and CBSG Mesoamerica organized a PHVA workshop for this species. This workshop was held at Simon Bolivar National Zoo, in San Jose, Costa Rica March 2-6, 2009.

This activity was financed by VOLCAFE Ltda., a coffee export company based in England, which announced that they were going to produce a gourmet coffee named **Jaguar Coffee**, and a percentage of its profit will be dedicated to finance the implementation of the strategy that was developed during the workshop.

56 persons representing 27 institutions from 4 countries participated in this workshop. The participants were botanists, foresters, geographers, tourist guides, educators, biologists, genetists, field workers, wildlife managers and veterinarians, who shared their experiences, making the workshop a learning experience for all and representing many different points of view. The participants decided that the working groups should constitute: Habitat, Politics, Research, Human-Jaguar Conflicts, Education and Modeling. All the groups analyzed the problems of the species and proposed a Conservation Strategy, with a cost of almost two million dollars.

The participants that were doing research with the jaguar populations presented their work. Mark Pilgrim from Chester Zoo was invited to share with the participants his experience with the species and the European studbook work. Kathy Traylor-Holzer explained her experience managing *ex situ* populations of large felines. These two presentations gave a very nice perspective of the *ex situ* work that most of the participants did not have previously.

Análisis de la Problemática de la Vida Silvestre una vez Extraída de su Medio (Costa Rica).
Analysis of the wildlife problems once it is outside of its natural habitat (Costa Rica).

One of the actions proposed at the Costa Rican Amphibians Conservation Strategy was to analyze the problems of wildlife once it is brought outside its natural habitat. This action was supported by the National Service of Animal Health of the Agriculture Ministry, the Conservation Areas System of the Environment Energy and Telecommunications Ministry, the Biology School of the Universidad de Costa Rica, Fundación pro Zoológicos, and CBSG Mesoamerica, who dedicated time and effort in organizing the workshop.

The workshop was held at the Auditorium of the National Service of Animal Health at Heredia, Costa Rica August 17-21, 2009, and was inaugurated by Dr. Gerardo Vicente, SENASA director and MBs. Guisselle Mendez, Director of SINAC. The work methodology and the list of speeches were carefully designed by the organization team, as it was very important that all the participants were clear on the definitions of the terms and the methodologies that are used to describe wildlife outside of its habitat.

This workshop had 59 participants, representing 33 institutions and NGOs. The participants decided to work in four groups: Research, Interinstitutional work (administration), Education and Welfare. These four groups analyzed the problems and proposed actions and /or protocols to solve them. SENASA facilitated the auditorium; office materials from other CBSG Mesoamerica workshops were used. The participants paid for their meals. The final report is currently being worked on.

Workshop Reports

During the year, we have made several workshop reports available to the conservation community via the CBSG website (www.cbsg.org) and the CBSG Mesoamerica regional page (www.cbsgmesoamerica.org), where the reports can be downloaded for free. The most recent reports are:

Monge, G., O. Chassot, H. Cháves, J.E. Rodríguez, G. Gutiérrez-Espeleta, K. Traylor-Holzer & Y. Matamoros (Eds.). 2009. Taller de Conservación de la Guacamaya Verde (*Ara ambiguus*) Evaluación de Viabilidad Poblacional y de Hábitat (PHVA). Informe Final. 22 al 26 de setiembre, 2008. Estación Biológica La Selva Heredia, Costa Rica.

Salom-Pérez, R., J.E. Rodríguez, K. Holzer, G. Gutiérrez-Espeleta & Y. Matamoros (Eds.). 2009. Taller de Análisis de la Población y del Hábitat del Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) en Costa Rica .Estrategia para la conservación de la especie. Informe Final .2-6 de marzo, 2009. Parque Zoológico y Jardín Botánico Simón Bolívar, San José, Costa Rica.

Cabezas, F., J.E. Rodríguez & Y. Matamoros (Eds.). 2009. Proceso de priorización e implementación para la conservación *ex situ* de especies arbóreas nativas de los cantones de Santa Ana, Escazú, Mora y Belén, Costa Rica. 27-28 de marzo, 2008. San José, Costa Rica.

Bolaños, F., G. Chaves, J. Rodríguez & Y. Matamoros (Eds.). 2009. Taller para la Conservación, Análisis y Manejo Planificado de las especies de Anfibios de Costa Rica (CAMP II). 10-12 de agosto, 2007. San José, Costa Rica.

Arguedas, R., M. Baldi, F. Bolaños, D. Leandro, J. Rodríguez & Y. Matamoros (Eds.). 2008. Curso-seminario sobre la problemática de la disminución de las poblaciones de anfibios y el papel de la medicina veterinaria. 22 y 23 de mayo, 2008. Heredia, Costa Rica.

Bolaños, F., K. Johnson, J. Rodríguez & Y. Matamoros (Eds.) 2008. Taller de Priorización de Especies de Anfibios para Programas de Conservación *ex situ*. 31 de octubre, 1-2 de noviembre, 2007. San José, Costa Rica.

CBSG Mesoamerica web page

At the beginning of this year, we rebuilt the CBSG Mesoamerica web page. The site has general information about CBSG and CBSG Mesoamerica. It also has sections about the PHVA and CAMP methodologies, information about VORTEX, and people can download the PDF version of many of our workshop reports here. The webaddress is www.cbsgmesoamerica.org.

Future Workshops

November 2009- *Jabiru jabirus* PHVA

Instituto para la Conservación y el Manejo de la Vida Silvestre (ICOMVIS).
Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica.

February 2010- VORTEX workshop in Costa Rica

Biology School, Universidad de Costa Rica

March 2010- Costa Rica Amphibians Conservation Strategy follow up meeting.

We are looking for funding to finance the following workshops:

Mesoamerican and Caribbean Amphibians Conservation Strategy and Husbandry Course.

Mesoamerican and Caribbean Manatee PHVA

Humpback Whale PHVA (Costa Rica)

Cuban Crane PHVA

Costa Rica Crocodiles PHVA and Conservation Strategy.