



## Report of CBSG South Asia Sept 08-Sept 09

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of CBSG/RSG South Asia, 9-15 February 2009

The Sixth Annual meeting of CBSG / RSG South Asia took place by the sea in Mt. Lavinia area of Sri Lanka which is near the National Zoo. Organised by Zoo Outreach Organisation and hosted by the National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka and Ministry of Sports and Public Recreation, Government of Sri Lanka. Resource persons came from UK and USA and participants from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan (for the first time), and Sri Lanka.

Mike Jordan, representing the IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group for Europe and Central Asia, gave a presentation entitled *Considerations in Releasing Animals - some IUCN Fundamentals* and also a case study of the *Southern Ground Hornbill Reintroduction*. Miranda Stevenson, Director, BIAZA, representing IUCN SSC CBSG covered CBSG with an outstanding presentation that described CBSG in context of IUCN and CBSG activities for the past year.

Following these presentations Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur facilitated a brainstorming session for topics to be discussed at working groups, using CBSG Ground Rules for Group Interaction. There were a number of stimulating suggestions but these were prioritized to Small Mammal Reintroduction, Global Climate Change, and Human/Animal Conflict. The reports of these groups have been circulated in April ZOOS' PRINT Magazine at [www.zoosprint.org](http://www.zoosprint.org) under left column Back Issues and Newsletters. These feature CBSG and RSG south Asia Newsletters, Working Group reports of the meeting and a special review of CBSG South Asia's work multiple collaborators to establish a systematic and safe protocol for translocation of small wild populations of Hoolock Gibbon to viable habitats.

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for South Asian Zoo Association** : CBSG India was a major instigator for SAZARC, the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation and meets annually just before the SAZARC Conference, and SAZARC inspired CBSG South Asia. This year the training theme was Zoo Legislation Part II. Training topics were "fine tuning" of legislation, accreditation and inspection of zoos. Resource Persons, Kris Vehrs of AZA, Miranda Stevenson of BIAZA and Mike Jordan of ATMOS gave detailed presentations on the theme and related zoo husbandry issues, alternating with country-focused Working Groups to discuss how to proceed further in each country case, and every afternoon, training in Zoo Inspection, using the National Zoo of Sri Lanka as a guinea pig followed by a presentation from a different staff member each day about all the different facilities, old and coming up, of the National Zoological Gardens.

The National Zoo and the Ministry of Sports and Public Recreation went overboard in their gracious hospitality. SAZARC participants were given the option of staying for a tour which covered Hikkaduwa Marine Sanctuary, Ft. Galle, Bundala National Park (wild elephants, crocodiles, birds, and at night tiny marine turtles being helped to dig out so they make to the ocean before suffocating. Five species of marine turtles lay eggs on that single beach. For more detailed report please see May issue of Zoos' Print magazine at [www.zoosprint.org](http://www.zoosprint.org).

**Local sponsors:** Ministry of Sports and Recreation, Sri Lanka; Department of National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka. **External Sponsors:** Chester Zoo/North of England Zoological Society, UK; The Benindi Fund, UK; Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, UK; Knowsley Safari Park, UK; SSC IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group; World Association of Zoos and Aquaria; Twycross Zoo, UK; Paignton Zoo, UK; Walt Disney World, USA; Apenheul Primate Park, Netherlands.

### ZOO/CBSG South Asia staff and network activity in South Asia and other parts of the world Sept 08- Sept 09:

- **World Conservation Congress**, IUCN World Congress, attended by SM, October 08, Barcelona, Spain.
- **2nd Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium**, Nov 08, Penang, Malaysia attended by BAD
- **Natl Conf. Recent Trends in Climatic change/Coastal Bio-resources** 11-12 December 2008. Trichur, Kerala attended by BAD.



- **Conservation Educator Workshop** in Bangalore from 18-19 December organized by ATREE attended by RM.
- **08 CBSG and WAZA Adelaide meetings** : CBSG Steering committee, CBSG Annual Meeting and WAZA Annual Conference, October 08, Attended by SW (Sponsored by *Chester Zoo and CBSG*)
- **09 Mid-Year Meetings of CBSG & WAZA**: Steering Committee, Amphibian Review, WAZA Council and WAZA Strategic Futures workshop, Mar 09, attended by SW. (Sponsored by CBSG)
- **IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Meeting** held at Bristol, June 09 attended by SW
- **IUCN SSC AESG - Human-Asian Elephant Conflict Workshop, Beijing, China** 10-11<sup>th</sup> July 2009, attended by SW and SM (*Travel sponsored by USFWS*)
- **Society of Conservation Biology SCB Annual Conference 09** and special Symposium on South Asian Primates, 12-18 July 2009, Beijing, China SW & SM (*Travel sponsored by USFWS*)
- **Annual SEAZA Conference**, Seoul, South Korea, 5 – 9 August 09, attended by SW (*Chester*)
- **IUCN SSC Red List Steering Committee**, 15-16 Sept.09, Zoological Society of London, London, attended by SM, Member (*Travel sponsored by IUCN*)
- **Alliance for Zero Extinctions (AZE) Steering Committee**, 30 Sept, Washington, D.C. attended by SM (*Travel sponsored by AZE*)
- **IUCN project COUNTDOWN 2010** -- CBSG, South Asia and some taxon network joined CD 2010 in order to brand and motivate our network member NGO's to join and brand some of their education and conservation projects with the CD 2010 initiative. Amphibian and Hoolock Gibbon calendars were made for 09/10. Countdown 2010 has displayed their commitments on their website and given a CD2010 profile for the whole South Asian region.
- **SCB Membership Project** : Society for Conservation Biology has a special rate for membership for academics from developing countries. This rate, \$10.00, includes web access to four important conservation journals. In most South Asian countries the effort required to exchange local currency plus send it to a foreign organization is immense, although the amount is not much. Our office has made a widely publicised offer to do the paperwork for anyone who wants to join and will reimburse the \$10.00 payment in local currency.

#### **Workshops and Projects organized by ZOO/CBSG, South Asia**

- **Human Elephant Co-existence**, 9 HECX Educator Workshops a series of workshops in conflict resolution conducted in India, Nepal and Bangladesh by ZOO/CBSG South Asia and other collaborators. Sponsored by USFWS and other sponsors elephant family, Twycross Zoo, Columbus Zoo, Sohon Brunn Zoo, Vietnam. Trainers B.A. Daniel, R. Marimuthu, Sally Walker, Heidi Riddle.
- **Part II Wild to Wild Translocation Scoping Workshop** featuring Hoolock Gibbon held in Assam, Jan 09 (Fred Launay, Mike Jordan, Cecilia Kierloff, Jayantha Das, Sally Walker, Sanjay Molur) sponsored by USFWS, Chester Zoo and CBSG SSC IUCN.
- Eastern Himalaya Freshwater Biodiversity Assessments Training workshop, a project of **IUCN SSC Freshwater Biodiversity Program** was conducted in collaboration with ZOO/CBSG South Asia in Nepal in July 2009 where Sanjay Molur was a trainer in IUCN Red List. ZOO/CBSG South Asia are part of the Assessment initiative and will assist with mentoring and later organizing and conducting an IUCN Red List assessment workshop for FWB South Asia. (**Sponsored by IUCN**)
- **JoTT founded** - ZOO's PRINT Journal morphed into **Journal of Threatened Taxa** in January 2009 with new mandate, layout, website [www.threatenedtaxa.org](http://www.threatenedtaxa.org). It has been very enthusiastically received by conservation academics and field persons world wide. (*Sponsored by Chester Zoo.*)
- **ZOOS' PRINT Magazine & ZOO ZEN** completed 23 years of regular monthly publication. Now web-based as well as printed. Circulated free to needy zoos. [www.zoosprint.org](http://www.zoosprint.org). *Sponsored by UFAW and CBSG.*

**CBSG Taxon Networks** working from ZOO office are based on the processes and principles of CBSG and all works done with aim of conducting Training, PHVAs, CAMPs, Education, Conservation, Conservation Planning, etc., using the CBSG tools to promote and deliver effective conservation in the



region. All the networks circulate current news, announcements, opportunities and articles of interest to all the members via email. The networks and some of their activities follow :

- **CCINSA/RILSCINSA may join to become Small Mammal Network**– The two newsletters of CCINSA and RILSCINSA have merged into one newsletter called Small Mammal Mail. July 2009 issue can be found at [www.zoosprint.org](http://www.zoosprint.org) under newsletters. Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia conducted a **bat taxonomy and eclosion training** at Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, India and a **field techniques training workshop for bats and rodents** on 5-11 September in Wangdue, Bhutan. (All sponsored by Chester Zoo and Bat Conservation Int'l)
- **Amphibian Network of S. Asia:** In 2009 ANSA continued participation in the AArk education programme distributing educational materials for IZE and IZE South Asia member and other educators. Fresh materials including hundreds of AArk caps, tshirts and literature were brought out for use in special global and national amphibian oriented events for 08/09. Sponsored by Sea World Conservation Fund.
- **South Asian Reptile Network:** will take the lead in a project under ZOO & WILD of the CEPF Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund to conduct the IUCN SSC Red List Global Assessment for Reptiles in South Asia in 2010. Sponsored by CEPF.
- **South Asian Primate Network** - PSG SAPN representing IUCN SSC Primate SG. Training in Wild to Wild Translocation as mentioned above. Developed and distributing primate education materials.
- **Invertebrate Network (ICINSA) and Sub-networks (Pollinator Network and Aquaric Invertebrates):** ICINSA supplies members of the greater network and its sub-networks support of literature on their specialty, opportunity for rapid publication in **Journal of Threatened Taxa**. Also a project from the Invertebrate Conservation Centre, ZSL to develop a teaching manual on climate change with strong focus on challenges for invertebrates. All invertebrate networks and salary of B.A. Daniel, network convenor are supported by the Invertebrate Conservation Centre, London Zoo. ZOO continues to fundraise for field work on distribution of Theraphosid spiders in India sponsored last two years by **Oregon Zoo**. Also Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund CEPF has approved a grant for studies on Theraphosid spider diversity, distribution and habitat-use in PA landscape level in a portion of Western Ghats, Karnataka, India.
- **Educator Network SAN-IZE** -- A total of nine workshops on Human Elephant Coexistence HECx have been conducted in three countries as reported above. One country, Sri Lanka, from the project with USFWS is to be conducted. Two more grants from USFWS will cover 3 workshops in Sumatra (possibly in 09 and 3 in Thailand in 2010-11). SANIZE office is providing consultancy to Nilgiri Biosphere Conservation Park for design of signage, interpretation, and other educational products for its opening on 16 September.

#### **Some Education materials developed in the current year were:**

Teaching Manual on Getting along with Elephants and on Dancing (Sloth) Bears  
 Education Packets and other items on Bears, Hoolock Gibbon, Elephants (Human Elephant Coexistence), Monkeys (Conflict Resolution), Amphibians and common wild creatures.  
 Also produce Count Down 2010 Posters on Hoolock Gibbon and Amphibian Crisis, activity-based colouring books for Amphibians and Bats and Drama kits plus Guideline books for Using Drama in Public Education for: Amphibians, Asian Elephant, Bears, and Hoolock Gibbon.

#### **Some Projects for future 2010 with funding status**

- IUCN Red List assessment in Himalayan Freshwater Biodiversity workshop, South Asia, venue to be announced (**funded by IUCN**)
- IUCN SSC Global Assessment Programme, South Asian Reptile Assessments (**funded by CEPF**).
- IUCN Assessments of fresh water biodiversity in Western Ghats and in Eastern Himalaya (**funded by IUCN**)
- Population and habitat Viability Assessment Workshop for Sri Lankan Elephant, and Training on MIKE: Systematic Monitoring of Elephants using Dung DNA –(USFWS and partners) venue to be confirmed (**funded by USFWS and partners**)



- PHVA for Red Panda, Red Panda Management Group & National Trust for Nature Conservation, Nepal, Fall 2010 (exact venue in Nepal to be confirmed **(confirmed but not funded)**)
- Three sets training workshops in Human Elephant Coexistence, Sri Lanka. Sumatra, Thailand **(funded by USFWS and partners) 2010**
- Three refresher workshops (follow up) on Human Elephant Coexistence HECx to be held in West Bengal, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka **(funded by USFWS and partners) 2010**
- Annual CBSG RSG South Asian and SAZARC Feb/March 2010 in Nepal **(confirmed but not funded)**