



Member Announcements

September 2010

2010 CBSG Annual Meeting

The 2010 CBSG Annual Meeting is just a week away! We are extremely pleased that this year's Annual Meeting already has 75 participants from 21 countries planning to attend. If you would like to attend the meeting, there is still time to register! For details about the meeting and to register, follow this link: [Annual Meeting Registration](#)

This year's agenda includes plenary presentations by Wendy Foden, IUCN's Climate Change Program Officer, and Kevin Zippel, Amphibian Ark Program Director.

Ours is a working meeting, with most of the time spent in groups focused on issues of high priority to the international species conservation community. This year is no exception, with working groups on:

- Assisted Colonization: Moving Species for Conservation Purposes
- Climate Change
- Promoting Conservation Change Through Education
- Intensively Managed Populations
- IUCN *Ex Situ* Guidelines Review
- IUCN Species Conservation Congress
- Species Conservation Planning Tools
- Assisting Zoos with Welfare and Standards

We hope you'll join us for what is sure to be an interesting, productive and enjoyable meeting.

The meeting agenda and descriptions of working groups can be found on the [CBSG website](#). For meeting participants, briefing materials and additional information can be found on the [CBSG Portal](#).

PMx Software Training

A one-day training session on the new PMx software for pedigree analysis and management will be held on 19 October at the Cologne Zoo following the CBSG Annual Meeting. This session will be designed primarily for those people who are already very familiar with the PM2000 software, and will review the use of the new PMx tools in detail. Please contact Bob Lacy if you are interested in participating. We are also working with several zoo associations hopefully to arrange for some regional workshops on PMx during the next year.



Recent CBSG Projects

Training in Small Population Management

CBSG Australasia is continuing its drive to build regional capacity in conservation-directed small population management. In June 2010, CBSG Australasia staff ran a three-day workshop for senior staff at Taronga Conservation Society Australia, focusing on program design for species recovery. A one-day small population management refresher workshop also was conducted at Hamilton Zoo on 22 September by Caroline Lees.

CBSG Disease Risk Assessment Tool Development

CBSG began the collaborative development of Disease Risk Assessment (DRA) tools for wildlife in 1991 and, in the ensuing years developed a 'toolkit' through a series of workshops, field trials and publications. Richard Jakob-Hoff and Arnaud Desbiez attended meetings with CBSG staff and others in August 2010, to review and progress development of the toolkit with the aim of broadening global awareness and uptake of this valuable resource through a series of training workshops. As a result a strategy to achieve this goal by 2012 was developed.

CAZG Science Work Committee Conference

At the request and support of the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens (CAZG) and the Humane Society International (HSI), CBSG attended the annual conference of CAZG's Scientific Work Committee, held 26-29 August in



Shijiazhuang, China. About 100 zoo directors, curators, veterinarians and researchers from over 50 Chinese zoos attended the conference, which focused on the four working groups of the CAZG Scientific Committee: animal husbandry, enclosure/exhibit design, veterinary care, and endangered species population management. Support for *in situ* conservation and improved animal welfare were also general themes. CBSG gave a presentation on the principles, tools and planning stages for species population management programs, followed by a presentation by ISIS on ZIMS and animal records systems. CAZG is dedicated to the advancement of scientific population management within its collections. Last year CBSG assisted with a studbook training course for all CAZG studbook keepers. Since then, CAZG has conducted two training courses in animal records and identification, with additional courses planned. More advanced training is planned for 2011 in the development of species management programs, including the use of PMx.

Sumatran Tiger GSMP Meeting

Critically Endangered in the wild, the Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) is managed by five *ex situ* regional programs – EAZA, ZAA, AZA, JAZA and PKBSI – with about 340 tigers held globally. In late 2008 a WAZA Global Species Management Program (GSMP) was established for the Sumatran tiger, and the inaugural meeting of the GSMP committee was held on 15-16 September at Taman Safari Indonesia. Participants included species coordinators and/or program representatives from all five regional programs as well as the GSMP Coordinator (Sarah Christie, ZSL). Kathy Traylor-Holzer from CBSG attended as population management advisor to the GSMP.

Data analysis indicates that the global population represents about 95% gene diversity contributed by 37 founders. The Indonesia program alone holds a significant portion of this diversity (93%). The four populations outside of Indonesia all retain < 90% gene diversity and, for the most part, are descended from the same founder stock. The GSMP committee discussed goals, strategies, and potential terms for inter-regional transfers of tigers that would demographically and genetically strengthen all regional populations. Other opportunities for inter-regional collaboration were identified to promote tiger conservation activities, such as awareness, research, training, and *in situ* financial support. Management of tigers captured due to human-tiger conflicts was also discussed, as were options for breeding potential founders to capture additional genetic diversity in the *ex situ* population.



South China Tiger Data Analysis

As part of our ongoing collaboration since 1995, CBSG assisted the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens (CAZG) with population analysis for the *ex situ* South China tiger (*P.t. amoyensis*) population in preparation for its annual technical masterplanning meeting for this subspecies. Believed extinct in the wild, there are 96 South China tigers in captivity, 87 of which are in 14 Chinese zoos and 9 in a 'rewilding' project in South Africa. This population is descended from 6 founders, and after 4-6 generations in captivity, now retains only 68% gene diversity, with an average inbreeding coefficient of 0.3491. Despite the low genetic diversity in this population, growth remains positive and has been particularly strong over the past 4 years due to effective management facilitated by a well-maintained studbook, active species coordinator and management committee, and annual masterplanning meetings.

IUCN Status Review for Costa Rican Amphibians

On 3-4 August, 27 people representing 15 institutions met at the Biology School of Universidad de Costa Rica to update the information on species reviewed in the Costa Rica Amphibian CAMP II and IUCN's Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA). The participants agreed to make changes in the information for 51 species. Participants also reviewed the progress on actions recommended in the Conservation Strategy of 2006. Twenty actions (48%) have been accomplished, 11 are in progress (22%) and other 11 (22%) have not been started. The complete report is available at www.cbsg.org and www.cbsgmesoamerica.org.



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Red Panda Population and Habitat Viability Assessment

Concern has been growing that a serious decline of the Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) across its range is likely. Concrete data are lacking, however, as are action plans directed specifically to the gathering of missing information and the mitigation of threats to this species and its habitat. For these reasons, CBSG was invited to conduct a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment for the Red Panda in Nepal.

The workshop was organized by the Government of Nepal, Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Department of Forest, the NTNC, CBSG South Asia and WWF, and facilitated by a joint team of CBSG South Asia and CBSG Europe. Funding was provided by WWF Germany, Rotterdam Zoo and members of the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA). This was one of the first PHVAs to incorporate the visioning component of the IUCN/SSC Species Conservation Strategy approach. The 60 delegates, including representatives of three range countries – Nepal, Bhutan and India – envisioned a future for Red Pandas in Nepal of: "Secure, viable populations distributed in contiguous natural habitat throughout the Himalaya regardless of national boundaries where this flagship species brings benefits to the region and is valued and protected by all stakeholders".

GIS technology was used to map the confirmed and possible occurrence of Red Pandas in Nepal. Eleven subpopulations were identified holding in total an estimated 230 to 1,060 individuals. A computer model helped to establish that the majority of the subpopulations are so small that they have a high probability of extinction, even in the absence of human threats. Larger subpopulations also have a high risk of extinction in the short to medium term if current levels of threat persist. Taking into account all the information gathered in the meeting, participants identified and prioritized the threats, and developed goals, objectives and concrete actions. These actions will provide the first steps towards achieving the vision for this flagship species of the Himalaya.



Mountain Bongo Workshop

On 26-28 July, CBSG facilitated a three-day workshop for mountain bongo in Kenya. The workshop, carried out in close collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service and sponsored by Woburn Safari Park, brought together 59 stakeholders from 20 organizations. The aim was to build a national conservation strategy for this threatened subspecies, which now occurs at only a few sites in Kenya and has become a flagship for the declining montane forest ecosystems on which many Kenyans depend.



Upcoming Meetings

Disease Risk Assessment Tool Development Workshop

An international workshop, hosted by CBSG Australasia and Auckland Zoo, is planned for April 2011, to begin the process of collaboratively revising the current Disease Risk Assessment Manual (published in 2002) in collaboration with end-users and subject experts. The aim is to create an updated wildlife DRA resource based on best available science and technology that serves the needs of the global wildlife conservation community and is the centerpiece of a global training program for wildlife conservation professionals.

Giant Panda Technical Meeting

With support from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, CBSG will again attend the annual giant panda conference, to be held this year on 11-15 November in Fuzhou, China. CBSG will assist with population data analysis and facilitate a discussion of population goals and development of a breeding plan for the 2011 breeding season. Based upon the significant past success of this management program, last year the management committee expanded its population goals to the retention of 90% gene diversity for 200 years with a global target population size of 400-600 giant pandas.



Scimitar-horned Oryx Conservation and Reintroduction Workshop

In November 2009, CBSG facilitated a workshop on Scimitar-horned Oryx conservation in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. This workshop, generously funded by Al Ain Wildlife Park and Resort and the Sahara Conservation Fund, brought together nearly 30 experts from northern Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Europe, and North America to discuss the ways in which captive oryx can most effectively serve as founder stock for reintroductions into countries like Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, and Niger. The meeting was very successful in laying out a long-term vision for scimitar-horned oryx conservation in the region and in identifying first steps necessary to make this vision become a reality.

Participants from the first workshop are now communicating through a website created by CBSG as part of the planning process for Workshop #2 to be held in Algiers, Algeria in October. Oryx habitat and distribution maps are being constructed, and biologists and risk assessment specialists are developing preliminary population viability models that will ultimately be used to evaluate alternative reintroduction strategies among different proposed sites across northern Africa. At the meeting, we will identify and rank biological and non-biological criteria to be used in the evaluation of alternative reintroduction sites as part of the final phase of recovery planning for the species.

Our goal is to follow this workshop with a final meeting that will use the ranked criteria to choose optimal reintroduction sites in selected parts of the species' range, with associated reintroduction strategies that can be implemented by local authorities in collaboration with global partners.