



IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) Activities Report

October 2012 – September 2013

CBSG Membership

CBSG currently has a membership of 359 individuals from 46 countries and is supported by the non-profit Global Conservation Network comprised of 140 donor institutions, organizations, and individuals.

Workshops and Publications

CBSG has conducted or participated in 72 workshops/meetings in 18 countries since October 2012, including 26 Population and Viability Assessment (PHVA) or Species Conservation Planning Workshops, 15 training workshops, 4 planning workshops for conservation organizations, 3 tool development workshops, and 24 other conservation workshops and meetings. Several of these projects were conducted in collaboration with other SSC Specialist Groups including Reintroduction, South Asian Invertebrates, Antelope, Equid, Galliformes, and others. CBSG has produced 22 documents in the past 12 months.

Annual Report

We have published and distributed our 2012 Annual Report, which features conservation success stories from the year, such as: collaborating for conservation in Djibouti; conservation of Central American river turtles, western pond turtles in the US, and wattled cranes in South Africa; strategies to save the eastern barred bandicoot; and modeling interactions between threatened and invasive species. The report is available for download [here](#).

Highlights

Friends of Target 12

A new partnership called [Friends of Target 12](#) brings together 25 organizations around the world with the aim of "providing practical guidance and raising awareness of initiatives and programs that contribute to the implementation of the activities needed to stem the tide of species' extinctions." CBSG is proud to be a partner in this important new initiative. Target 12 is one of the [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#). These Targets are part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and will help the CBD and its partners, including the IUCN and SSC, to fulfill specific conservation objectives. Target 12 states: *By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.* There are several Targets that CBSG contributes to, but Target 12 aligns especially closely to our mission and work.

Zoos Saving AZE Species

In collaboration with John Fa of [Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust](#), CBSG is developing a partnership between zoos and the [Alliance for Zero Extinction](#) (AZE). AZE is a consortium of biodiversity conservation organizations and has defined places around the world that house Critically Endangered and Endangered species whose survival depends on the single site they inhabit. A partnership between zoos and AZE would allow zoos to use their resources to safeguard AZE species and their habitats. Check out our blog post (<https://portals.iucn.org/blog/2013/02/18/breeding-conservation-alliances/>) to learn more.

One Plan Approach Highlighted in WAZA Magazine Vol. 14 *Towards Integrated Species Conservation*

The most recent edition of the WAZA Magazine compiles various approaches to integrated species conservation and aims to demonstrate the links between species conservation across the spectrum of conditions of management. This edition includes a number of articles submitted by CBSG members highlighting our One Plan approach to integrated species conservation planning and our development of tools to support and promote linkages between conservation efforts across the continuum of management strategies. Our proposed One Plan approach promotes integrated species conservation planning, which considers all populations of the species, inside and outside their natural range, under all conditions of management, engaging all responsible parties and all available resources from the very start of any species conservation planning initiative. The One Plan approach aims to: establish new partnerships; ensure that intensively managed populations are as useful as possible to species conservation; increase the level of trust and understanding among conservationists across all conditions of management of a species; accelerate the evolution of species planning tools; and ultimately lead species conservation towards the aspirations embodied in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. You can read the entire issue of the WAZA Magazine Vol. 14 [here](#).

Climate Change Movement

The diverse skill-set of CBSG's global network enables us to address the issue of climate change on several levels, including:

- Adapting our tools and processes to reflect the reality of current and future changes to climate, habitats, and species.
- Using metamodeling tools to provide detailed analysis of multi-species interactions. The relationship between disappearing sea ice in the Arctic and ringed seal populations, and the resulting effects on polar bears, have been selected as an ideal test case for the use of metamodeling for climate change impacts.
- Bringing to the CBSG community a movement that gets to the heart of the problem: that in order to return atmospheric levels of CO² back to 350 ppm and keep them there, the root cause of human-induced climate change must be addressed—that is, humanity's dependence on fossil fuels. The movement includes greening infrastructure by reducing carbon emissions, greening investment portfolios through socially responsible investment that excludes fossil fuels, and practicing clear communication about the issue of climate change and the threats it poses to biodiversity.

After receiving approval from the GCN board, we announced our own divestment from fossil fuel companies in March. We have frozen any new investments in fossil fuels and

are researching the best fossil-free place to reinvest our reserve funds. We want CBSG's divestment to serve as a model and provide an invitation to the zoo and aquarium community to join us in this movement.

New CBSG North America Regional Network

We are excited to announce the creation of a new CBSG Regional Network, CBSG North America. This Regional Network will focus on conservation activities in the US and Canada. Anne Baker and Phil Nyhus are the co-convenors of this network, which is being hosted by Saint Louis Zoo. The stated mission of CBSG North America is to increase the effectiveness of species conservation efforts by:

- facilitating and promoting collaboration between North American zoos and aquariums, the IUCN SSC Specialist Groups, conservation NGOs, the academic community, and government entities;
- assisting in the assessment of risks to threatened and endangered populations;
- expanding participation of North American zoos and aquariums, the academic community, wildlife agencies, SSC taxon Specialist Groups, and other interested parties in the work of CBSG;
- increasing communication with other regional CBSG networks; and
- providing assistance to the CBSG staff that supports their efforts to develop and test new conservation management tools.

New Website

CBSG launched a new website in May this year. The new site incorporates a new system for organizing our document library, updated content about CBSG's work, and a user-friendly look and feel. The new site is experiencing an increase in the number of visitors and more in-depth engagement in the site's content. Website analytics from the three months before the launch to the three months post-launch reveal:

- The number of visitors to www.cbsg.org increased by almost 20%.
- The total number of pages viewed post-launch was over 13,000 -- a 33% increase from the pre-launch period.
- Visitors viewed more pages per visit and used the website for longer periods of time.
- New visitors used the new website for 25% longer than did new visitors on the old site.
- Pages that receive the most traffic are the homepage, the document library, the headquarters staff page, 2013 Annual Meeting information, and the Workshop Processes page.

For workshop summaries and additional on-going initiatives, see CBSG's [eUpdates](#).

Workshops (conducted or participated in): October 2012-September 2013

PHVA and Species Conservation Planning Workshops

Amphibian Husbandry Course & Mesoamerican Amphibian Conservation Strategy, Costa Rica
Amur Leopard/Amur Tiger GSMP Meeting, Russia
AZA Tiger SSP & Felid TAG Meetings, USA
Brown Howler Monkey PVA, Argentina
Colorado Pike Minnow PVA, USA
Giant Panda Annual Conference & Technical Meeting, China
Great Ape Heart Project, USA
PASA Great Ape Reintroduction Workshop, UK
Pickersgill's Reed Frog Biodiversity Management Planning Meeting, South Africa
Prairie Butterfly Conservation Meeting, USA
Review of the Costa Rican Jaguar Conservation Strategy Actions, Costa Rica
RSA Departmental of Environmental Affairs Rhino Stakeholder Forum Meeting, South Africa
Sonoran Pronghorn PVA and PHVA Meetings, USA
South China Tiger Scientific Committee Masterplanning, China
Southern Ground Hornbill APP Meeting, South Africa
Southern Ground Hornbill Working Group Meetings (2), South Africa
Sumatran Rhino Summit, Singapore
Sungazer Lizard Working Group Meetings (2), South Africa
Wattled Crane APP Meeting, South Africa
Wattled Crane Recovery Programme Meeting, South Africa
Western Pond Turtle PHVA, USA
Workshop on *Ex Situ* Conservation Appraisal for the Sungazer Lizard, South Africa
Workshop on the National Invasive Species Strategy & Action Plan, South Africa

Planning Workshops for Conservation Organizations

Auckland Zoo/Rotoroa Island Project Meeting, New Zealand
Kutai National Park Workshop, Indonesia
Regional Species Management among Asian Zoos Conference, Taiwan
TCSA Zoo Bird Department: Planning Workshop, Australia

Training Workshops

Vortex Advanced Modeling Course, USA
Disease Risk Assessment Training Workshop, Singapore
Ex Situ Population Management Training, Taiwan
Ex Situ Population Management Training for ZPO, Thailand
Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation Teaching Workshop, India
Getting Along with Elephants – Educator Training Program (2), India
Human Elephant Conflict Workshops (2) and Refresher Course, India
Intensive & Selective Breeding of Game Animals, Technical Workshop, South Africa
Invertebrate Pollinator Conservation Training, India
Vortex CBSG Regional Modelers Meeting, USA
Vortex Modeling Course, USA
Workshop on Applying the Revised IUCN Guidelines for Reintroduction and Other Conservation Translocations, South Africa

Tool Development

Exploration of the Use of Metamodels to Project Impacts of Climate Change on Arctic Fauna, Norway
IUCN Criteria and Delineation Workshop, USA
Metamodeling: Exploratory Analysis of Disease Modeling Meeting, Australia
Tool Development Symposium at AZA Conference, USA
Virtual Training discussion, Scotland

Other

ACC&D Free-Roaming Cat Symposium and Board Meeting, USA
AZA Avian Scientific Advisory Group Symposium, USA
AZA Climate Workshop, USA
AZA SPMAG Mid-Year Meeting, USA
CBSG Annual Meeting, Australia
CBSG Regional Networks Meeting, USA
CBSG Strategic Committee Meeting, Australia
CBSG Strategic Committee Mid-Year Meeting, Switzerland
Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders, USA
International Congress for Conservation Biology, USA
ISIS Board Retreat, USA
IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee Meeting, UK
MAC Meeting, Australia
Molecular Genetics in Ex Situ Conservation Symposium, Germany
PAAZAB Conference and AGM, South Africa
Symposium on Milu (Pere David deer) Conservation Symposium, China
WAZA Annual Conference, Australia
WAZA Committee for Population Management Meeting, Australia
WAZA Committee for Population Management Meeting, Scotland
WAZA Committee for Population Management Midyear Meeting, USA
WAZA Conservation Committee Meeting, USA
ZACC Conference, USA

Publications: October 2012-September 2013

Agostini, I., A. Desbiez, and P. Miller (eds.). 2013. Brown Howler Monkey Conservation Workshop. IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), Brasil.

Bemadjim, N. E., J. Newby, A. Desbiez, C. Lees, and P. Miller (eds.). 2012. Technical Workshop on the Reintroduction of Scimitar-horned Oryx to the Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve, Chad. IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group: Apple Valley, MN.

Byers, O., C. Lees, and J. Wilcken (eds.). 2013. Wildlife Restoration and Community Engagement on Rotoroa Island: Workshop Report. IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group: Apple Valley, MN.

Byers, O., C. Lees, J. Wilcken, and C. Schwitzer. 2013. The One Plan Approach: The Philosophy and Implementation of CBSG's Approach to Integrated Species Conservation Planning. *WAZA News 14/2013*: 2-5.

Carvalho-Jr E.A.R & Desbiez A.L.J. 2013. Modeling the impact of hunting on the viability of a jaguar population in Amazonia, Brazil. *Latin American Journal of Conservation* 3(2): 8 - 14.

Holst, B., A. Ahmed, A. A. Aouled, A. A. Mohamed, A. Laurent, A. M. Aman, A. Desbiez, B. Mulot, B. Lafrance, C. Gibault, D. Mallon, E. Ruivo, H. A. Rayaleh, K. Leus, P. Moehlmann, and P. McGowan (eds.) 2013. Conserving Djibouti's Priority Land Animals – a Seminar and Conservation Workshop Final Report. IUCN SSC.

Jakob-Hoff R and Luz S (eds.) 2013. *Report of the Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis Workshop, Singapore*. IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group: Apple Valley, MN.

Kreider, C., T. Harris, K. Traylor-Holzer, T. Arzhanova, S. Christie and J. Cook. 2013. The Amur Leopard and Tiger Global Species Management Plans. *AZA Connect*, August 2013: 36-37.

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Lacy, R., K. Traylor-Holzer, and J. Ballou. 2013. Managing for True Sustainability of Species. *WAZA News 14/2013*: 10-14.

Lees, C., P. Andrew, A. Sharman, and O. Byers. 2013. Saving the Devil: One Species, One Plan. *WAZA News 14/2013*: 37-40.

Lees, C., K. Traylor-Holzer, and M. Parrott (eds.). 2013. Eastern Barred Bandicoot PVA Workshop Report. IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Apple Valley, MN.

Leus, K., A. Glatston and C. Hibbard. 2012. Global Captive Masterplan and Candidature for Global Species Management Plan (GSMP) for the Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens fulgens* and *Ailurus fulgens styani*). Rotterdam Zoo, Rotterdam.

Leus, K., K. Traylor-Holzer and J. Ballou. 2012. WAZA Training Grant 2011 Report – Expanding Ex Situ Population Management Capacity in Asia. *WAZA News 4/12*: 25-26.

Medina-Miranda, R., R. López-Ortiz, K. Ramos-Álvarez, J. Cruz-Burgos, P. McKenzie, K. Swinnerton, C. Ortega, A. Cruz, I. Liu, R. Lacy, P. Miller, H. Díaz-Soltero and K. Traylor-Holzer, K (eds.). 2013. Yellow-shouldered Blackbird/Shiny Cowbird Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop Final Report. IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Apple Valley, MN.

Miller, P., R. Lacy, R. Medina-Miranda, R. Lopez-Ortiz, and K. Traylor-Holzer. 2013. Confronting the invasive species crisis with PVA: An explicit, two-species metamodel of an endangered bird and its nest parasite in Puerto Rico. 26th International Congress for Conservation Biology, Baltimore, MD (abstract).

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Rodríguez, J.E., F. Bolaños, and Y. Matamoros (eds.). 2013. Taller para evaluar el estado de conservación de los reptiles de Centroamérica. Utilizando los lineamientos de las Listas Rojas de la UICN. 6-10 de mayo, 2012. Estación Biológica Palo Verde, Bagaces, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group-Mesoamerica (CBSG Mesoamérica).

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Traylor-Holzer, K., K. Leus, and P. McGowan. 2013. Integrating Assessment of *Ex Situ* Management Options into Species Conservation Planning. *WAZA News 14/2013*: 6-9.

Traylor-Holzer, K., K. Leus, P. McGowan, R. Lacy, and O. Byers. 2013. Integrating identification and critical evaluation of *ex situ* management options into species conservation planning as part of a One Plan approach. 26th International Congress for Conservation Biology, Baltimore, MD (abstract).